FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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27 August Middle East and South Asia Review

LD271337 [Editorial Report]

Inter-Arab Affairs

A joint meeting of the RCC and the Ba'th Party Regional Command chaired by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn praised the outcome of the Arab League Council session in Tunis, INA reported. The leaders reiterated Iraq's solidarity with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and stressed the need to "completely boycott" the Iranian regime. Another INA report termed the Tunis meeting "one of the most important held by the Arab League" and noted that the final statement established "sound bases for an effective and serious Arab move" toward breaking ties with Iran. Furthermore, INA maintained that Syria spoke with a "Persian voice" and attempted to "sabotage Arab unanimity."

A 27 August *Al-Akhbar* commentary reported by MENA describes the meeting as "disappointing" and regrets that the ministers in Tunis "ignored the intervention of a certain Arab state" on behalf of Iran. Meanwhile, Egyptian Defense Minister Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah said that the Egypt's defense industries have made a "major contribution" to Iraqi arms supply, the agency reported. In an interview to be published 28 August in the magazine *Al-Mushwwar*, the defense minister pointed out that "no strings" were attached to the aid. Restoring diplomatic relations "was not even discussed," he declared.

For Syria's part, a Damascus radio commentary reiterated the Syrian view that Iraq is "primarily responsible" for the war and that the Arab nations have a "pan-Arab responsibility" to avoid "fabricating an Arab-iranian conflict" that will divert attention from the struggle with the "Zionist enemy." The commentary urged that "firm efforts" be made to prevent the expansion of the war and to have foreign fleets leave the Gulf.

Iran

In remarks cited by IRNA, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi accused the United States of trying to "impose an ignominious peace on Iran in collaboration with Arab reactionaries," and he rejected the idea of "compromise" over the war. Furthermore, Musavi complimented Syria and Libya for foiling the "conspiracy" to portray the war as a conflict "between Arabs and non-Arabs." The prime minister described relations with Saudi Arabia as "severely damaged" by the Mecca incident. "New issues" have been created between the two countries, he said, adding that Iran will expose "Saudi petro-dollar Islam."

During a meeting with Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Qi Huaiyuan, Prime Minister Musavi praised China's stand on regional issues and expressed "satisfaction" with "expanding" bilateral ties, IRNA reported. In predeparture remarks, the Chinese official termed his 2-day visit a "complete success," XINHUA noted.

Gulf Conflict

Iraqi forces in the north are in "complete control" of the border area, a military spokesman told INA. "Peace and security prevail," he said, and Kurdish citizens are "leading a normal life." The spokesman was refuting a "series of lies" regarding Iranian combat successes in Kirkuk, Al-Sulaymaniyah, Irbil, and the Dukan area. For Iran's part, the commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps ground forces, who was interviewed by Tehran radio, asserted that by using "unconventional tactics," Iranian soldiers have been able to strike at "sensitive" military and economic installations, as well as to liberate towns for a "short periods" and disrupt traffic on main arteries. Iranian military action in the north is undermining Iraqi military "prestige" and paving the way for the people's "uprising," the officer declared.

Turkey repatriated a group of Iranian soldiers who were arrested for illegal entry 23 August, ANATOLIA reported.

Regarding action in the south, a communique cited by IRNA announced that Iranian artillery inflicted "heavy losses" on Iraqi oil platforms in the Gulf. INA reported 27 August that a "number" of civilians were wounded by artillery fire against Al-Basrah.

An organization calling itself the Hizballah of the Hijaz threatened to attack U.S. and Saudi interests if the United States does not withdraw its warships from the Gulf, according to a statement carried by Tehran radio. The group also claimed responsibility for operations against Saudi oil installations and a "state establishment" in Al-Damman. A "responsible" source told SPA that the Al-Damman claim by the "falsely named group" was another one of the "entertaining fabrications" by Tehran's "miserable rulers."

Saudi Arabia

All pilgrims are requested to abide by their scheduled departure dates or face "arrest, punishment, and forced expulsion," according to an Interior Ministry statement reported by SPA. The Ministry added that citizens and legal residents who employ or harbor such pilgrims or visitors will be "severely punished."

Lebanon

A UNIFIL soldier was killed and two others were wounded by gunfire near Sribbin, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported.

'Asim Qansuh, secretary general of the Ba'th Party organization in Lebanon, disclosed that Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, PSP leader Walid Junblatt, and Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri reached agreement on "all points under study," Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Junblatt and Birri arrived in Damascus 24 August for talks in an effort to ease their differences.

Palestinian Affairs

PNSF official Khalid 'Abd al-Majid told AFP that his group has formulated a plan to resolve the "current crisis," adding that Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will sponsor a meeting in Tripoli 3 September to encourage talks on PLO unity, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Sa'id Musa Muragha, secre-

tary general of the Palestine National Liberation Movement; Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the PFLP-GC; and 'Isam al-Qadi, secretary general of Al-Sa'iqah, ended a visit to Libya, Tripoli television noted.

According to Voice of Lebanon radio, PLO official Abu 'Ali Shahin survived an assassination attempt at the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp near Sidon.

Israel

One person was seriously injured when a bomb exploded at a bus depot in southern Tel Aviv, IDF radio reported 27 August, indicating that the incident is under investigation.

'Arafat Receives Message From PRC Leadership
JN261927 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, received a message from the PRC leadership on the current international situation.

WAFA, the Palestinian news agency, said that Brother Abu 'Ammar received this message during his reception yesterday of the PRC charge d'affaires in Tunis. During this reception they reviewed the latest developments of the Palestine question on the Arab and international levels in general. They also reviewed the situation of the Palestinian people inside the occupied homeland and Lebanon in particular.

Spokesman Khalid: PNSF Seeks PLO Unity
NC270623 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0515 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] PNSF spokesman Khalid 'Abd al-Majid has stated that the Front will present a plan for resolving the current crisis in the PLO during the meeting in Tripoli, Libya on 3 September.

In a statement to AFP last night, 'Abd al-Majid said that the officials in the Front's four organizations have held a long meeting to formulate a document that can be used as a basis for dialogue to restore unity in PLO ranks. He said that the meeting in Tripoli will be held in response to an invitation from Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, who is seeking reunification of the Palestinian groups.

Communique Details Amal Shelling of Camp
JN270650 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1815 GMT 26 Aug 87

["Text" of PLO military communique; date and place not given]

[Text] As part of their plans to escalate military action against Palestinian camps in Beirut and southern Lebanon, the agent Amal gangs used their heavy and medium machineguns and rockets indiscriminately against the Shatila camp. The shelling centered on the Farahat quarter. The sporadic shelling of the camp was continuing as of the time this communique was prepared. Despite the intensive fire from Amal positions, our heroes defending the camp returned fire only to defend themselves.

This serious escalation by the Amal agents in the Shatila camp area this evening is part of a plan to displace our people from their camps in Lebanon and set up sectarian cantons there to balkanize the Arab region.

'Suspect' Statements Falsely Attributed to PLO
JN262013 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1815 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] A responsible PLO source has stated the following: Statements have been recently distributed which unduly use names of PLO organs and institutions. The PLO would like to draw the attention of fraternal and friendly mass media that these suspect statements are fabricated by groups that are hostile to the PLO. These statements are aimed at harming the PLO and its Arab and international relations. We are eager to affirm that any statements by the PLO are usually issued through its official mass media. Therefore, we hope that mass media will seek accuracy and rely only on official statements and positions issued by the PLO and its authorized institutions.

Fatah Denies Dismissal of Lebanon Official 24 Aug
NC241502 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1345 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Fatah's information bureau in Lebanon affirmed in a press statement today that Brother Abu Usamah, alias Zayd Wahbah, is still carrying out his duties as official in charge of Fatah in Lebanon. The statement adds that reports carried by news agencies and radio stations claiming that the commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution has decided to dismiss Brother Usamah are untrue.

According to the statement, there was an internal disagreement some days ago. Central instructions have been issued and local efforts are being made to deal with the situation; consequently, the statement noted, the rumors that have been circulated are false.

Fatah Uprising Claims Police Station Attack
JN261610 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1415 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] In Damascus, a spokesman for the command of the forces of the Fatah Uprising Movement operating inside the occupied territory has stated that the Martyr Rafiq al-Salimi group last night threw hand grenades at a Zionist police station in occupied Gaza. They killed and wounded many enemy personnel. The enemy radio admitted the operation, but, as usual did not admit the losses. The revolutionaries returned safely to base.

Further Reports on Saudi Defense Minister's Visit

Holds Talks With Messaadia

LD261916 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Algiers, 26 Aug (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general of the Armed Forces, met at his residence in Algiers Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, an FLN Party Permanent Secretariat official today.

Cordial talks were held and bilateral relations were discussed. On the Saudi side, the talks were attended by 'Ali ibn Musallam, royal court adviser, and Muhammad Hasan al-Faqi, Saudi ambassador to Algeria; and on the Algerian side, Bu'allam al-Sayh [name as received], minister of information and culture, and Abdelkarim Gharaieb, Algerian ambassador to the Kingdom. His Royal Highness Prince Sultan, and his delegation, later attended a banquet in their honor given by Mohamed Cherif Messaadia.

Views Mecca Violence With Ibrahimi

LD261917 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1755 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Algiers, 26 Aug (SPA) — This evening at the Algerian Foreign Ministry, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general of the Armed Forces, met Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Algerian foreign minister.

Ibrahimi told SPA after the meeting that all Arab issues and the painful events staged by some of the Iranian pilgrims in Mecca were discussed. He said that the talks dealt with the Palestine problem, the Iraq-Iran war, and the Lebanese problem. He added that efforts for building the great Arab Maghreb were also discussed.

Attends Banquet With Brahimi

LD262224 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2150 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Algiers, 26 Aug (SPA) — At the Al-Mithaq residence this evening, His Royal Highness Amir Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general of the Armed Forces, met with His Excellency Abdelhamid Brahimi, Algerian prime minister. Matters of common interest were discussed. On the Saudi side the meeting was attended by 'Ali ibn Musallam, adviser at the royal court, and Muhammad Hasan al-Faqi, Saudi ambassador to Algeria; and on the Algerian side by Boualem Bessiaeh, minister of culture and tourism, and Abdelkarim Gharaieb, Algerian ambassador to the Kingdom

HRH Amir Sultan this evening attended a dinner banquet hosted in his honor and that of the accompanying delegation by Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi. The banquet was attended by a number of Arab ambassadors accredited to Algeria and by senior Algerian officials.

Ibrahimi, Kuwaiti Counterpart Discuss Gulf Situation

LD261150 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, made a stopover this afternoon in Algiers. He was welcomed at the airport by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister. At the VIP lounge, talks were held by the two ministers on conditions in the Arab world, in general, and the situation in the Gulf, in particular.

Bendjedid, Zambian, Senegalese Presidents Hold Talks

LD262244 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Excerpt] A tripartite meeting composed of President Chadli Bendjedid, President Kaunda of Zambia, and President Abdou Diouf of Senegal assembled late this morning. The meeting took place in the Houari Boumediene Airport VIP lounge shortly after the arrival of President Kaunda, and just before the departure of President Abdou Diouf to Dakar.

During the meeting the three heads of state assessed the results of the 23d OAU summit, examined the development of the Chadian-Libyan border conflict, the situation in southern Africa, and Africa's foreign debt.

Regarding the Chadian-Libyan border conflict, the three heads of state stressed the need to implement the OAU ad hoc committee's resolution adopted at the latest summit.

After the meeting President Abdou Diouf left Algiers, where he had arrived yesterday for a 24-hour private visit.

Goukouni Faction Withdraws From Opposition Talks

LD261746 Paris International Service in French
1245 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Excerpt] A meeting of the Chadian opposition was scheduled to open in Ouagadougou today. The meeting was due to end Friday and was initially likely to bring together around the same table the representatives of Goukouni Oueddei and those of Acheikh Ibn Oumar. However, the representatives of the latter will now meet alone, which removes a certain amount of interest, if not to say all interest, in this meeting.

On the line from Ouagadougou is our special correspondent, Smith:

[Smith] The Ouagadougou conference is a meeting of the neo-GUNT and only involves the seven factions that were thus constituted last November under the chairmanship of Acheikh Ibn Oumar. This ends all speculation on possible reconciliations within the Chadian opposition in the Burkinabe capital.

Ibrahim Ala [name as heard], minister of information for Goukouni Oueddei, told us: We are not participating in any way in this event. He pointed out that he had arrived in Ouagadougou on 18 August simply as an envoy to the Burkinabe Government, and since then he has only extended his visit on the friendly insistence of President Thomas Sankara. But the meeting here does not involve us, he stated. For us, the GUNT, there cannot be a conference of the Chadian opposition unless it is chaired by Goukouni.

Thus we are back at square one. The GUNT and the neo-GUNT continue to reject each other. This is primarily a severe blow for the Burkinabe authorities, who spared no effort to achieve a clarification within the Chadian opposition, the precondition for any further clarification with the Ndjamena government. [passage omitted]

Ibn Oumar on Talks With Habre

LD262158 Paris International Service in French
2030 GMT 26 Aug 87

["Exclusive" interview with Neo-GUNT President Acheikh Ibn Oumar in Ouagadougou by special correspondent Steven Smith; date not given]

[Text] [Announcer] Here is an exclusive Paris International interview. Steven Smith, our special correspondent in Ouagadougou, has met with Acheikh Ibn Oumar, president of the Neo-GUNT, the movement opposing Chadian President Hissein Habre. Acheikh Ibn Oumar made some fairly staggering statements, particularly that he is willing to meet Hissein Habre.

[Begin recording] [Acheikh Ibn Oumar] There are no preconditions and, therefore, if conditions for immediate talks with Ndjamena are met [as heard], even before organizing the opposition in a definitive manner, we believe that we should seize such a chance, since experience has shown that many reconciliation attempts have been blocked for what I would call almost superficial reasons.

[Smith] So, today you are amenable to negotiating with Hissein Habre. What are the minimum conditions you set for such negotiations?

[Acheikh Ibn Oumar] Learning from experience, if I may say so, the minimum conditions needed to begin talks in a fluid and useful manner are that there should be no preconditions by either side.

[Smith] So you are ready to meet Hissein Habre tomorrow if he agrees to it, and to meet him in any African capital?

[Acheikh Ibn Oumar] Absolutely.

[Smith] Disregarding any possible solution to the conflict, do you consider the Aouzou Strip to be Chadian territory?

[Acheikh Ibn Oumar] Apart from the (?matters pending), one must from principle [words indistinct] and we express clearly that at the moment Chad obtains its independence, the Aouzou is part of Chadian territory. There is no doubt about this. [end recording]

[Announcer] That was Achiekh Ibn Oumar, interviewed by Steven Smith.

Source Rejects Recent Khashuqji Allegations

NC261557 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, 26 Aug (MENA) — A well-informed Egyptian source has emphatically denied reports that Egyptian officials were involved in certain contacts with Iran, a claim made recently by the well-known Saudi millionaire 'Adnan Khashuqji in an interview with Kuwaiti papers *Al-Siyasah* and *Arab Times*.

The Egyptian source told MENA that no one, not even Egypt, has knowledge of the events to which Khashuqji was referring.

The two Kuwaiti papers recently published an interview with 'Adnan Khashuqji in which he claimed that the United States had planned to kill Khomeyni and transfer power to someone else and that Egypt had participated in early stages of the contacts which culminated in the sale of U.S. arms to Iran.

Abu Ghazalah Comments on Arms Supplies to Iraq

NC261530 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, 26 Aug (MENA) — Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, said the Egyptian military industry and the Egyptian Armed Forces have made a major contribution to Iraq's war efforts. Egypt, he said, has supplied Iraq with essential weapons, ammunition, and spare parts. No strings were attached to these arms supplies, Abu Ghazalah said, and the issue of restoring diplomatic relations between Egypt and Iraq was not even discussed.

In an interview granted to Makram Muhammad Ahmad, editor in chief of *Al-Musawwar*, which that magazine will publish on Friday, Abu Ghazalah said that on several occasions Egypt has drawn on its strategic reserves of arms and ammunition to fill Iraq's needs. We have supplied them [with weapons] from our available reserves and without waiting for stocks to be replenished. This we did and still do out of our responsible understanding of the close connection between Egypt's security and that of the Gulf.

Rejecting the view held in some Arab quarters that Eypt's fervent support for Iraq is economically motivated, Abu Ghazalah asserted that this is absolutely untrue. If this were true, he argued, why do we not sell to Iran? Iran has been and still is ready to pay over $3 million for the tank we sell to Iraq for $1 million. Egypt could have behaved like other countries and sold weapons to Iran through a third party, but we believe the Gulf war is a threat to Egyptian national security, Abu Ghazalah stated.

Asked about the possibility of an armed clash between Iran and the United States, Abu Ghazalah said: I do not expect Iran to intercept any U.S. ships. I doubt very much that an Iranian missile launch or patrol launch will hit a U.S. ship or even a ship flying the French or British flag, because this would mean Iran had given the United States the right to strike as a calculated and limited reaction, without necessarily escalating the situation to a state of war.

Abu Ghazalah added: The Iranians are not that stupid, unless Tehran's rulers have completely lost control. He expressed the belief that Tehran will not fire any missiles at ships in the Hormuz Strait with a view to closing it, because it is very much in Iran's interest to maintain the flow of its oil through this strait. He predicted that Iranian activities will remain confined to laying sea mines, which they might deny responsibility for in the case of an explosion. Iran might fire a missile at a non-American merchant ship, he said, as was the case recently with the Liberian tanker.

Abu Ghazalah further explained that he does not expect U.S. ships to strike at Iranian vessels in Gulf waters. He added: Despite the media uproar, the two sides continue to keep more than a hairline's distance between them. He added: We have not heard so far about Iranian missiles hitting French, British, or U.S. ships.

Replying to a question, Abu Ghazalah said there is no doubt the current Iranian strategy is to intimidate Gulf countries until they stop supporting Iraq. He recalled that the Iranians have always considered Kuwait a target and that after the events in Mecca it became clear that Tehran is expanding its scheme to keep everybody under pressure and fearful of giving Iraq financial or moral support.

Iran believes, Abu Ghazalah said, that in this way it can erode Iraq's military power and eventually undermine its domestic front in the absence of external support. If this were to happen, Abu Ghazalah said, Iraq could lose its edge and Iran eventually achieve military equality with Iraq in terms of weaponry and equipment. Iran could then wage a successful attack to occupy Basra, and if Basra fell, God forbid, the results would be ominous, Abu Ghazalah declared. The Iranian dream of Iraqi disintegration would then come true. Iraq would be divided into three ministates: one around Basra, including Al-Najaf, Karbala', and other Shi'ite holy cities; one for the Sunnis in the center of Iraq; and possibly a third for the Kurds in the north. This would eliminate Iraq from the picture in an Iranian-Arab confrontation, he said.

Tehran also hopes other Gulf states will collapse without the need for war or confrontation. It reckons that a few terrorist acts could be enough to undermine these regimes from within and pave the way for the establishment of pro-Khomeyni regimes, a development that would mean Khomeyni's domination of the Gulf and the Arab Peninsula had become a reality.

Asked if it is possible for Iran to achieve a quantitive and qualitative balance with Iraq, Abu Ghazalah said this is highly unlikely, despite Iranian attempts to catch up with Iraq. Explaining this assessment, Abu Ghazalah said that first of all the great powers no longer have anything to gain from the war, and there is now an international consensus on the need to end the fighting.

Abu Ghazalah noted that Iraq now possesses over 3,000 tanks, as opposed to Iran's 700. Iraq also has over 400 planes, while Iran has only 30 or 85. The gap between the two sides is simply huge, Abu Ghazalah said.

Concerning the situation on the battle front, Abu Ghazalah said the battle lines are virtually stable, as both sides lack the ability to make any major inroads. He described the war as one of attrition, in which the changes in battle lines remain insignificant and do not generally affect the big picture.

Answering a question, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said the Gulf war has achieved its objectives, as far as the two superpowers are concerned. It has brought economic development in the oil-rich Arab countries to a virtual standstill, while 90 percent of oil revenues is being wasted on financing the war. Had such funds been used to finance development projects and to set economic progress in motion, he asserted, these countries would have become economic giants capable of competing with both West and East.

Abu Ghazalah said an estimated $181 million in aid has been provided to Iraq. Such an astronomical figure could have changed the face of the Arab world had it been well spent on economic development. Arab countries could have built giant factories, provided their youths with job opportunities, abolished crime and extremism, and repaid their debts, he noted.

Asked about the similarity between Iranian and Israeli goals, Abu Ghazalah said their goals clearly coincide. It is a fact, he said, the Palestinian problem is now at the bottom of the list of international concerns. This is why Egypt is desperately working to keep this issue alive in the minds of the world community. The Arabs themselves have forgotten this issue in their anxiety about the Gulf. It is only too clear that it is in Israel's strategic interests for the Iraq-Iran war to continue.

AL-AKHBAR Terms Ministers' Meeting 'Disappointing'

NC270546 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2255 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, 26 Aug (MENA) — Under the headline "Another Disappointing Meeting," the *Al-Akhbar* newspaper describes the recent Arab foreign ministers meetings in Tunis as disappointing. These meetings were a repeated and distorted picture of the Arab positions in recent years. They resulted in a statement that was full of empty stylistic phrases, protests, and denunciatory slogans which have become a distinguishing feature after every Arab meeting.

In a commentary in its Thursday's edition, the paper says there had been a very slight hope that the Arab foreign ministers would rise to the level of the dangerous events confronting the Arab and Islamic world at this decisive period in its history. There also was hope the ministers would forget, at least for once, the interests and whims that dominate their governments in order to appear before the world as brothers who forget their differences and stand united to confront any threat to any one of them.

The paper expresses astonishment that in their statement the Arab foreign ministers had called on the UN Security Council to urgently take the necessary measures to ensure the implementation of its resolution to end the Gulf war. This call was made despite the failure of these ministers themselves to adopt a resolution in this regard. They have attempted to hide their failure under the slogan of giving Iran until 20 September to accept the Security Council resolution, despite all of the indications of that country's disregard for the resolution.

The paper also expresses regret that the Arab ministers have ignored the intervention of a certain Arab state — whose ministers had participated in the meetings — in this war through its support of Iran with money and weapons against an Arab sister state.

The paper denounces the ministers' position on the regrettable incidents that occurred in Mecca during the pilgrimage season. *Al-Akhbar* asserts that the ministers contented themselves with issuing customary formal denunciations about those incidents that are considered to be insignificant.

Mubarak Address to Youths Stresses Muslim Unity

NC261832 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi read an address by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to a closing ceremony at the Abu Bakr al-Siddiq Youth Camp in Alexandria; 1,500 young people from 75 Islamic countries and Egyptian college students participated in the camp activities.

Dr Sidqi conveyed Mubarak's greetings to the youths and congratulated them on the new Muslim year. In his address President Mubarak said Egypt is proud of the Muslim youths who are a part of a new generation and will share in the responsibility of spreading the high values of Islam and its respect for human rights and progress.

President Mubarak said Egypt believes it has a mission toward the Islamic world, a mission which Al-Azhar has fulfilled for centuries. Al-Azhar graduates, Mubarak said, return to their countries holding aloft a torch of knowledge and enlightenment.

President Mubarak said the camp embodies the strong bonds uniting the Muslim world. Muslims feel at home anywhere in the Muslim world, Mubarak asserted. He added that these bonds should be translated into strong ties in all areas. This is particularly true, he noted, in light of the richness of the Muslim world in terms of resources, scientists, and technicians. There must be more economic and political cooperation and more trade, investment, and coordination between Muslim countries, Mubarak declared.

President Mubarak emphasized in his address the need to further political cooperation in the Muslim world, noting that this is particularly necessary after the bitter experience of the Iraq-Iran war. The Gulf war, he said, poses a colossal challenge to the ICO, which should seek to end the tragedy. It is unacceptable for the Islamic world to remain passive about this war, Mubarak said, adding that Islamic efforts are also needed to tackle the problems of the Afghan people.

President Mubarak said cooperation and solidarity between Muslim countries should not be equated with isolationism. Islam, he said, is a call for equality and peace, and the Islamic world

should support international efforts to achieve peace in the world and the Middle East and to curb the arms race.

After reading Mubarak's speech, Dr 'Atif Sidqi congratulated the audience on the new Hegira year and handed out prizes to meritorious students. The students, in turn, presented him with the camp's shield as a gift for President Mubarak, acknowledging his efforts to make the gathering a success.

Zaki Badr on Terror, Use of Emergency Law

JN261853 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 24 Aug 87 p 10

[Report by Sana' 'Inan and Muhammad 'Abd al-Maqsud]

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr has affirmed that the police corps is continuing its efforts to confront terrorism and radicalism and to arrest the perpetrators and bring them to trial. He said that a few deviant youths are committing terrorist acts in return for large sums of money from foreign sides and radical regimes. He added that the Egyptian security services are among the best in the world. He said they were able to recognize the perpetrators, seize their weapons, and uncover their plans.

The minister also said the emergency law has not been used against anyone who expresses an opinion or has a certain political ideology. He added that no one will be unjustly arrested and that those tendentious members or opposition writers who defame the police corps should not be considered Egyptians. He also announced that the police in Egypt are shouldering their responsibility for providing security and stability for every Egyptian citizen.

This came during a popular conference held by Zaki Badr in the Al-Sharqiyah Governorate. The conference was attended by Al-Sharqiyah Governor Major General Amin Matikis, Security Director Major General Hasan Kazim, NDP Secretary in Al-Sharqiyah Rif'at al-Hajrasi, and the popualr, political, and executive leaders in Al-Sharqiyah. [passage ommitted on citizens' duty to vote in elections]

MENA Reports Explosion in Private Car; No Injuries

NC262000 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1940 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, 26 Aug (MENA) — An explosive charge was set off this morning in a private automobile on a street of Manyal al-Rawdah District in Cairo. The explosion completely destroyed the front of the automobile but caused no other material or human losses.

Criminal laboratory experts have examined the vehicle to determine the cause of the explosion.

The blue Peugeot 504, with private Cairo plate number 64895, is owned by a retired colonel who bought it recently.

Major General Muhammad 'Abd al-Hamid Mansur, assistant interior minister and the Cairo security chief; Major General 'Adil Baha', deputy chief of the Criminal Evidence Department; Brigadier General Mustafa Husayn, the head of the Criminal Laboratory; and senior Interior Ministry officials all went to the scene of the incident.

It was decided to leave the vehicle at the scene, on Khulusi Street, surrounded by a police guard force. Prosecution officials have begun investigating.

Al-Mahdi Warns Foreign States on 'Illegal' Acts

JN271035 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1017 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Aug (SUNA) — In his Wednesday seminar at the Al-Ummah Party House in Khartoum on 26 August, Prime Minister al- Sadiq al-Mahdi warned foreign countries, which he said are carrying out illegal activities in the country, that these activities are subject to full control. He said: Tolerance has its limits. Freedom does not mean freedom to be agents of foreigners or freedom of foreigners to recruit agents.

Al-Mahdi Addresses Peace Conference in Kordofan

JN261121 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Aug (SUNA) — Prime Minister al-Sadiq al- Mahdi has called for a Sudanese draft agreement that would achieve a balance in the country. He said democracy alone is not enough and should be accompanied by religious equilibrium that would safeguard the rights of religious minorities. Democracy should also be accompanied by a researched national economic and political balance. He indicated that this can be realized through a Sudanese agreement. Speaking at the final session of the conference on peace and security in southern Kordofan the day before yesterday, Al-Mahdi described the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement as a movement which has introduced wars and confrontations among the various tribes — a move which is unprecendented in the South's recent history. He said the Movement has failed to mobilize the South, its activities have been confined to the border region, and this has prompted it to turn to southern Kordofan. The prime minister called for rejecting religious and racial seditions and hailed the recommendations of the conference. He said it is a sound method and he would like to see the brothers in the South follow its example.

The conference's resolutions included a call for extending materiel, manpower, technical, and moral assistance to the Armed Forces so that they can carry out their role in guarding the homeland. The resolutions states that the threat to the homeland and citizens in southern Kordofan is due to John Garang's movement transferring its operations to the area and to the presence of tribal groups that carry unlicensed arms and plunder, kill, expel, and terrorize people.

The conference recommended that all unlicensed arms be immediately withdrawn from all individuals and groups in southern Kordofan, and efforts be made to settle and assist citizens who were harmed by the recent attacks in the area.

The conference also stressed the need to adhere to the traditional line; to maintain a balance between agriculture and grazing, and equal distribution of water sources; and to encourage the convening of regular and extraordinary tribal conferences to prevent tribal disputes.

The conference also urged that top priority be given in the national programs to building an infrastructure in the region to promote the development of processing industries, sports, youth, and the media.

Ba'th Party Rejects Coalition Government With NIF

JN271052 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1019 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Aug (SUNA) — The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has rejected any form of national government in which the National Islamic Front [NIF] participates because the NIF includes remnants of the May regime. To assure the public, the Ba'th Party gave its reply to the Al-Ummah Party, led by Al-Sadiq al- Mahdi, the prime minister, and will give copies of its reply to the political parties and bodies that have received the Al-Ummah Party's proposal.

The Ba'th Party received the Al-Ummah Party's proposal on the formation of a national government on 23 August from a delegation of an Al-Ummah Party committee authorized to contact political parties and bodies on the proposal put forward as an alternative to the coalition between the Al- Ummah Party and the Democratic Unionist Party which was dissolved on 21 August.

SUNA Reports Stoppage on Hegira Anniversary

JN261026 Khartoum SUNA in English 0932 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, Aug 20 (SUNA) — The *Sudan News Agency* (SUNA) regrets the stoppage of news transmissions due to technicians' refusal to work on religious and official holidays as the dispute over work conditions continues between the administration and the technicians.

Yesterday was the first day in the 1408 Hegira year.

SUNA seizes the opportunity to wish prosperity to all Muslims all over the world and peace and progress to the international community at large.

SAUDI ARABIA

Prince Nayif News Conference on Mecca Incident

LD260320 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Report on news conference given by Prince Niyaf ibn 'Abd al-Aziz, minister of interior, concerning the 31 July incidents in Mecca, on 25 August at Jeddah's Palace of Conferences; questioners unidentified]

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 25 Aug — His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Saudi minister of interior, held a news conference at 1400 today at the Palace of Conferences in Jeddah. He he provided information on the dimension of the sedition that the Tehran rulers sought to inflame in Mecca on 31 July 1987.

His royal highness also replied to the questions put to him by representatives of the local Arab, Islamic, and international information media who attended the news conference at the invitation of the Ministry of Information. [passage omitted]

The following is the text of the statement His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of interior, read at the start of his news conference:

Thanks be to God, the lord of the worlds, prayers and peace be upon the last of his prophets and messengers, our master Muhammad, and upon all his relatives and companions. May God's peace, mercy, and blessing be upon you.

Gentlemen, it is important for me in these circumstances to meet you directly. After the quelling of the Iranian regime's sedition in the holy shrine, matters have been focused on information, and on the political and intellectual aspects of this sedition. We hope that this direct meeting with you will help offer public opinion, both at home and abroad, with accurate information and faithful analysis.

You know in detail the events occurring since the Iranian regime carried out the bloody acts of sedition at the holy shrine — sedition which God helped to quell and thus save Mecca, the pilgrims, and the citizens from its evil. Since the rise of Iran's revolution, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been taken aback, like the whole Islamic world, by the Iranian pilgrims' staging of noisy and demagogic demonstrations. The responsible authorities in the Kingdom carried out sincere and numerous attempts — the bases of which have been a sense of responsibility and the exercising of great patience with Iranian officials — in order to convince them to abstain from this behavior, which is not compatible with the sanctity of pilgrimage, with Islam's brotherhood, or with the bilateral relations between the two countries. Regrettably, our serious and sincere attempts have been in vain. I believe this is due to two main reasons.

First, Iran's Government has wrongly believed that the Saudi authorities' patience throughout the past years was a result of weakness. Consequently, Iran's rulers believed that it was their right to do what they pleased, including the desecration of Mecca's Holy Mosque.

Second, the Iranian Government harbors hatred for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This hatred stems from the fact that it is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that serves the two holy mosques, Islam, and the Muslims. It is also due to the fact that it is the Kingdom which is in charge of the pilgrimage and the pilgrims and which follows the course of true Islam in all the rites of pilgrimage. This is what the authorities in Tehran do not want.

You are aware of those incidents since the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has taken the initiative to publish all information concerning the situation due to the following considerations:

One: The Kingdom is a responsible state that assumes its responsibilities with reason and wisdom in a world ruled by norms, laws, charters, and conventions and in a world in which people deal with one another in a civilized and responsible manner, apart from the eccentric and the anarchist.

Two: The Kingdom is a state that fully knows the importance of dealing with facts and genuine information, and this had an influence on the public's trust in the source of the information.

Three: Information on the situation could not possibly be concealed in these large crowds of pilgrims. This is a reality that reinforced the Kingdom's consistent policy of dealing with the facts with precision and clarity.

Four: To reassure the Muslim world, because there is not one state nor one Muslim minority in the world that does not have pilgrims for whose safety the Kingdom is concerned.

Five: To protect Muslim and international public opinion from the lies of Iranian politics and the fancies of the Iranian media. In its clear and consistent stand, the Kingdom relies upon many major and firm facts.

The first fact is that God Almighty wished the two holy mosques and the pilgrimage rites to be in this land and nowhere else. He wished to make all this a haven. Such is the divine will that the Iranians sought to rebel against with their bitter hatred for this country and their criminal intrigues based on this reaction. They tried these but God brought disgrace and scandal on them, as He stated: And any whose purpose therein is profanity or wrongdoing, them will we cause to taste of a most grievous penalty.

We sincerely believe that protecting the Holy Mosque from dissension is a grace from God and assistance from Him before anything else.

The second fact is that the ethics of Islam define Islamic behavior in hajj as total devotion to God and a commitment to calm and God-inspired peace of mind. This also includes complete abstinance from doing harm, whether by physical means or by uttering abuse. The Iranian regime abandoned the ethics of Islam when it attempted to spread sedition in the courtyard of the Holy Mosque.

The third fact is that the Kingdom — while it believes in God's will and in his choice of this land over all others as a holy land, and while it believes in the ethics of Islam and commits itself to

them in all its life and during the pilgrimage — at the same time believes in its full responsibility for law and order and for ensuring that the holy places remain peaceful as intended by Almighty God. It also believes in its responsibility for applying the ethics of Islam in time of pilgrimage. In light of this it has placed its trust in God and has decided to put an end to the sedition.

The fourth fact is that the pilgrimage — its timing and venue — is not a place for political frivolity. The Iranians claim that the pilgrimage is an arena for political struggle. However, the strong proof of the falsehood of this claim is that their criminal action has torpedoed their claim; that is, as soon as they applied their false theory that the sedition had taken place. [sentence as received]

The fifth fact is that no one else had violated the security of the pilgrimage or invented the staging of demonstrations during pilgrimage except the Iranians, now that they have become afflicted with a leadership that possesses a lust for for sedition and evil.

The sixth fact is that the Kingdom attaches very great importance to security in its normal life — a matter that has turned this land into an oasis of security and stability, thanks be to God.

It is natural and confirmed that the holy mosques should be accorded the highest degree of importance as a way of growing nearer to God and in fulfillment of the responsibility and service to those who came to visit the house of God. Everybody has some knowledge of the state of the pilgrimage in the past — a state dominated by great fear for one's life, one's wordly goods, and one's relatives and family, when security and safety on the way to the pilgrimage and during the pilgrimage were nonexistent [prior to the advent of the Saudi dynasty].

Since King 'Abd al-'Aziz, God have mercy on his soul, assumed responsibility for the pilgrimage and the two holy places, security has been firmly established, with success granted by God, in this blessed spot. Muslims who come from every corner of the world are safe in themselves, their honor, and their property, performing the rites with tranquillity and dignity and then returning safely to their families and their homelands. This is a fact that has been observed by everyone who was, in being granted success by God, able to come to this country as a pilgrim, in seeking minipilgrimage, or as a visitor.

The Kingdom's leaders continue to follow this course in exultation of the two holy mosques for their maintenance and in their service, and in order to secure the pilgrimage routes and the places of rites. Nothing has disturbed the calm of the pilgrimage in 64 years, namely since King 'Abd al-'Aziz spread security over these places, except the attempts by some Iranian pilgrims during this year's pilgrimage to undermine security and spread chaos among the ranks of the pilgrims, as you already know.

The seventh fact is that we are confident of and satisfied with the soundness of our measures and the justice of our stand. He who is confident of himself is not bothered by the lies of others. As the Almighty has stated: He will not harm you who has gone astray, if you embrace true religion.

The eighth fact is that the Islamic world is unanimous on these facts, and the Islamic unanimity on these facts is the strongest factor behind the vigorous and comprehensive stand by the Kingdom. Iran has left the Muslim fold and deviated from this fold's unanimity. This is the main reason for the collective Muslim condemnation of Iran's stand.

A question I have been asked repeatedly is why Iran has stood out [of the fold] and done what it has done, and whether there is a foreign scheme behind its behavior, which benefits no one. Initially, I would say that what they have done cannot have occurred out of spontaneity. It is far from what is desired for this region and the Islamic world. We know the framework they are moving within. We know that nothing will delight the enemies of the Islamic nation more than to shake stability in the Islamic countries.

To us both are the same. If the Iranians initiated the sedition through foreign instigation, it is a crime. If they have done so through their own thinking, they are most certainly serving the enemies of Islam, and this is also a crime.

Even if there are political differences between the Kingdom and Iran, the Holy Mosque is not the place and the pilgrimage is not the occasion to settle these differences. The Iranians should have known that their destructive behavior in the Holy Mosque would rebound against them, with God's grace and through the awakening of the Islamic nation. This is what has happened. This means that they have suffered political losses instead of gaining as they had intended. However, this is the reward for one who intends to do evil and who plans sedition.

We are resolved to prevent any irregularity during pilgrimages in the future. Anyone who comes for hajj will have the entire state at his service and anyone who comes to commit a crime will have no one except himself to blame. We are not ones who love to stage a struggle, but one of the characteristics of a believer is that if an injustice is committed against him, he will triumph.

No state in the world would condone such interference or this sedition. If all countries of the world are entitled to be earnestly concerned about their own security, stability, and sovereignty, the sons of the Kingdom are twice as concerned about their homeland. They are earnestly concerned about the holy place of God and God's safe haven. This concern is a special one. They also are concerned for their entire homeland and for its security, stability, and sovereignty. The sanctuary of a homeland will not be violated when the hearts of its sons are filled with this type of concern.

In conclusion, the gentlemen who are present here must have some questions to ask. Therefore, let them begin. Thank you. [passage omitted]

His highness then answered the following questions:

[Question] Frankly, we were expecting much more than this from Your Highness's statement. What, in your opinion, is the deterrent measure that is liable to avoid a repetition of what occurred? The Mecca tragedy has stained all our hearts with blood and we ask you: Has the Kingdom's patience and wide-breadth policy

been exhausted, and will you sever diplomatic relations with Iran?

[Nayif] I have in fact discussed the Kingdom's assessment of what happened and about its future view of this matter. I must give those present the opportunity to ask whatever questions they wish about this. Naturally, the answers will entirely address the issue. The question of the honorable questioner will begin this process. Of course the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will not under any circumstances accept a repetition of what happened; we are clear on this. Naturally, everyone has become acquainted with all that has been said about the issue by the leaders of the Islamic nation, its scholars, its men of thought, its writers, and its newspapers and their denunciations of this matter. Consequently, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will under no circumstances accept a repetition of this action. As for the issue of relations, this is a political matter and is best left to the parties concerned.

[Question] Does the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia intend to prevent Iranian pilgrims from attending the pilgrimage next year, considering that they persist in carrying out such acts every year? And you know, Your Highness, sedition is worse than killing.

[Nayif] This in fact depends on them. We do not prevent anyone from coming to the pilgrimage unless they provoke this by persisting in adopting criminal behavior that is incompatible with the pilgrimage's goals and benefits. In all honesty, we must say that the interests of 2 million pilgrims come before the interests of any specific group.

If it becomes clear that the Iranian pilgrims' entry into the holy places is a pretext for causing trouble, then this pretext will have to be removed. As I have said, scholars and preachers throughout the Muslim world have raised their voices in asking us to close the doors of sedition before anything happens. These voices have a scientific and literary value that we cannot ignore.

It is a question of preventing or not preventing anyone from coming to the pilgrimage, but we must view the matter in its real and true aspect. We view the issue as follows: A criminal gang took advantage of the pilgrimage visas to enter the Kingdom and mar the pilgrimage. The normal measure, which is internationally recognized, is not to give entry visas to criminal gangs. This does not mean in any way, however, that we will prevent any Muslim from attending the pilgrimage, including the Iranians. This is because the Iranian people are a Muslim people to whom we offer all opportunities that we offer to every Muslim anywhere. However, if we establish that there are elements of sedition among them who have come only to create trouble, then we have the right to tell them "this is neither the right place nor the right time for you."

[Question] Are there any security fears that some Iranian elements or saboteurs will attempt to sabotage the Kingdom inside or outside the country?

[Nayif] According to statements which everyone has heard, they said they will work against the Saudi Arabian Kingdom. It is not clear to us yet. We have learned from some of their followers that Saudi embassies and planes, and Saudis in general, will be their targets. Naturally, I do not believe that anyone would disagree if I said that these would be acts of terrorism.

We do not discount the likelihood of such things happening either outside or inside the Kingdom.

We would not allow ourselves to be lowered to the terrorists' level and deal with them in the same manner. We have proven this in their action against the Saudi and Kuwaiti Embassies in Tehran. We have protected and guarded their embassy and prevented any harm coming to it.

Our methods are unlike theirs and we do not hope to have a method similar to theirs. Any sabotage inside the Kingdom or any aggression in general will be faced forcefully and firmly. We will not permit any transgression to disturb our country's security and our reply will be firm and decisive.

[Question] Your Highness, the idea of convening a Muslim summit to respond to the Iranian sedition was recently proposed. I do not know whether this idea has fermented and whether the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will attempt to officially adopt it at the Islamic Conference Organization. Therefore, is there a Saudi role in trying to revive or hold an Islamic symposium of Muslim scholars to take a clear intellectual stand regarding sedition?

[Nayif] As you know, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has not requested the convocation of an Islamic summit on this very issue. However, it was called for by a number of Muslim leaders and some Muslim scholars and thinkers. If we decide to convene any summit for that purpose, or any Islamic summit, then the Kingdom will certainly participate in it, but not on the basis of entering into discussions on domestic matters or rights guaranteed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on its territories, even though we know that all the Muslim leaders, except for a small minority, support the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in all the measures it has taken. The Kingdom would welcome any symposium or gathering of Muslim scholars on the same basis as I mentioned for an Islamic summit.

[Question] Your Highness, what is the future and intellectual outlook, so that we can become liberated from what happened and proceed to something better? The truth is that the current trend can be stopped only by a countercurrent and that the popular Islamic movement in the Arab homeland, or in some parts of the Arab homeland, is being suppressed. Suppressing the Islamic movement in regions of the Arab homeland gives rise to non-Arab Islam from which we may draw quite a few observations. In some parts of the Arab homeland they have even been interfering in people's private affairs and personal behavior. Freedom of the veil is not far away to many people, whether in Turkey or in some parts of the Arab homeland. Frankly, many regimes and many of their current views state that there should be no politics in religion and no religion in politics.

We know that the Saudi regime is based on Islamic law and that Islam is the religion of all life. We also know that the new trends — the most recent of which is the Iranian trend — strike at Arab states and regimes through making changes to Islam on many issues. How long are we going to bury our heads in the sand and not take positive steps to create an Arab Islamic trend which is aware of these events?

[Nayif] I believe that Saudi Arabia is capable of taking the reins on this matter and that the Saudi organizations [words indistinct] the hope in the heart of every Muslim is that he would like to see the Islamic nation applying the Koran and the Sunnah of His Prophet. What I would like to say here is that Muslims should be sincere in their Islamic acts when they tackle worldly affairs and they should keep Islam out of personal and political matters. I have already said that there is a difference which shows that politics serves [word indistinct]. Islam is much nobler, prouder, and greater than (?this) and if there is a political issue it should serve the faith. I hope that we as Muslims will reject those who use Islam as a means to serve their worldly aims. I believe that this is not hidden from the Muslim ulema, their leaders, or the intellectuals in our Islamic world.

[Question] You said that the pilgrimage was peaceful for many years and that there was only sedition this year. The Saudi media revealed that last years' pilgrimage witnessed sedition in the form of some smuggled explosives and there were plans to embark on subversive activities. Does Your Highness believe that it would have been better to expose the intentions of the Iranian regime from the start so that Islamic public opinion could confront it? Second: Now sedition has taken place where the pilgrimage was being performed and Saudi-Iranian relations have become tense. Are there Arab or Islamic endeavors to settle this sedition? If so, what are these endeavors and what means are best used to form a basis for dialogue?

[Nayif] On the question of explosives, that has already been explained. It has also been announced why the Saudi authorities did not reveal the matter at the time. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia does not search for sedition and it does not work to heighten matters or exploit the weakness of conditions in order to create tension. The important thing in the eyes of the Saudi authorities was to ensure that no sedition took place. This is what happened: What the Iranians tried to do last year was prevented from taking place. It became clear that the aim behind not publicizing it was to avoid disturbing the pilgrims to the House of God last year. It was announced later that some Islamic leaderships had learned about this matter and demanded that the Kingdom not announce the incident. The Iranians themselves tried to denounce it and wash their hands of it and of course this was not true.

Not publicizing the matter was one of the means that the Kingdom found in order to reduce the existing tension in the area — not out of fear of anyone or in the hope of appeasing anyone but in the hope that Iran would appreciate this step on the part of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd, who ordered that the case be shelved. The aim was noble but regrettably the Iranians did not appreciate it. They misunderstood it. Consequently, when their sedition took place this year it was found necessary to announce the earlier matter so that Muslims everywhere and the entire world would know that we have borne many things from Iranians, even though we have made many efforts to try and end the war that is going on between two Muslim countries. In any event, we must continue.

The Kingdom made some intensive efforts in this regard for no other reason than to achieve stability and stop Islamic bloodshed. Fraternal Iraq's stand and its sure desire to end this war is known to all, but Iran's insistence is what has made it continue until now.

Despite all this, the Kingdom desires to keep open all channels between itself and Iran, since perhaps forebearance and overlooking Iranian mistakes might have made them feel that we are genuine in our desire to maintain fraternal and good-neighborly relations, and so that they might then cease to harm the Kingdom or the House of God and the mosque of His prophet. Regettably, however, they continued in their action until this year's sedition took place — which was of their planning and through their own will. But thanks be to God, He aided the destruction of this sedition in the shortest time possible. The pilgrims to the House of God were able to perform their pilgrimage with ease and comfort. Natrually, all the brothers know this and lived this fact.

When matters like this or even less than this take place, some states declare states of emergency and even impose curfews. Thanks be to God, we did nothing of the kind. We were able, with God's will, to resolve the sedition in 1/2 hour against more than 50,000 Iranians who assembled and wanted to commit sedition at the holy House of God and in all parts of Mecca. Reliance on God and the strength of the faith made it possible to resolve this matter in 1/2 hour and no quarter of Mecca was affected. Even the Iranians were left to roam in all areas of Mecca without restrictions or conditions. The Muslims were able to leave Mecca for Mina and then to go to 'Arafat and Muzdalifah and back to Mina and then return to Mecca and later were able to go to Medina until they had to return to their homelands safely and peacefully. No harm of any kind came to them. This is a definite and well-known proof that the Kingdom is capable of maintaining security. This, before anything else, is due to God's help and also is a result of the resolve of the Saudi leadership, people, and security men to maintain stability in their own country and particularly in these holy places.

[Question] Your Royal Highness: As a result of the more than ample facilities made available by the government for the pilgrims — which everyone has admitted — the number of pilgrims has been increasing to the point that some people exploit this opportunity by sending in huge numbers of pilgrims, while the prophet, prayers and peace of God be upon him, performed the pilgrimage only once. Does the government of the Kingdom not think about limiting the number of pilgrims every year with quotas for every Islamic country so that pilgrims may perform the pilgrimage rites in peace and quiet?

[Nayif] It is known that the pilgrimage is a duty for every Muslim man and women, and it should be performed when a Muslim is able to do so. This ability is ensured by three conditions:

First: secure travel to and accommodations in the holy places;

Second: material ability; and

Third: good health.

If these conditions are met then it is a Muslim's duty to perform this religious duty. Naturally, Muslims are supposed to take this into account. Furthermore, everyone who has already performed the pilgrimage should make room for another Muslim brother

who has not been able to perform the pilgrimage. As far as Saudi Arabia is concerned, its duty is to ensure the security of the road to Mecca and to the holy places, and Saudi Arabia is doing just that. Saudi Arabia's position on limiting the number of pilgrims would be an action that concerns the entire Islamic world. As long as it can receive the largest possible number of pilgrims, Saudi Arabia will make all efforts to enable every Muslim to perform the pilgrimage.

Naturally, there is no doubt that Muslims in general think about this matter of limiting the pilgrims' number in order to prevent the pilgrimage from becoming tiresome, and so that Muslims may perform the pilgrimage in peace and quiet. We note that there are pilgrims, whether from inside or outside Saudi Arabia, who perform the pilgrimage repeatedly over several years, and the matter has become tiresome. They are supposed to allow space, as I said, for their brothers who have not been able to perform this rite.

[Question] Your Highness, it is common knowledge that no crime should pass without punishment, and as Your Highness has said, the Iranian regime has shed more Muslim blood during the past years and has now commited a bigger crime. Regrettably, however, we do not find the deterrent punishment. Yesterday a conference for Arab foreign ministers was held in Tunis. They are expected to arrive at deterrent measures, reflected in a unified Arab stand, that will enable the imposition of certain sanctions to ensure that the Iranian regime will not repeat such actions. Does Your Highness believe that it is time to take such a unified Arab stand through which the aggressors could be punished for actions over the past years, particularly for the action they committed during recent days.

[Nayif] In fact, the answer to this question might be much more useful if it came from the foreign ministers who are meeting in Tunis. As for us here at our meeting, we would say that we will not let anyone tamper with the security of the sacred places and we will deter and serve him a deterring punishment.

[Question] Thanks be to God, who protected his house and maintained its sanctity. In view of what the custodian of the two holy mosques said before the Council of Ministers yesterday, I find myself, in the presence of Your Highness, forced to reaffirm the support of Sudan, in all its sectors, for the Kingdom concerning the Iranian regime's suspect move. I have a question: It is noted from your address that the Iranian regime exploited the Kingdom's tolerance and carried out these criminal actions that elicited the sentiments of all Muslims. This is in addition to Iran's ignoring Security Council Resolution No 598 and Iraq's position — that great attitude according to which Iraq agreed to halt the war and bring about peace — in addition to the repeated aggressions against sisterly Kuwait. Then the Iranian regime culminated those actions with what took place in Mecca.

Does Your Highness believe that the time has come for the Kingdom, in view of the Arab and Islamic consensus it enjoys thanks to its policies, which have remained responsible and good, to move within the framework of the Arab and Islamic nation to adopt an initiative that might lead to a boycott of that regime and would also lead to the halting of this Iranian treatment that we in the Arab homeland and the Islamic world cannot tolerate? Does Your Highness not believe that there is a need for the Kingdom, thanks to its influence and support in the Arab world, to make a definite move, to halt these actions carried out by the Iranian regime?

[Nayif] Concerning the Kingdom's moves, since the start of the Iraq-Iran war, it has worked to end this war. Its moves continue and the Kingdom's attitude on this matter will not change as a result of what took place in Mecca during this year's pilgrimage. I thank and appreciate the sentiments of the fraternal people of Sudan, as expressed by the brother questioner. These are the sentiments of all the Islamic peoples, and I believe the Iranian people also. The Iranian people do not harbor hostility toward the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; the matter is confined to the leadership. This matter in fact concerns us all.

[Question] First, has what occurred in Mecca been an Iranian attempt to drag the Kingdom into the aggressive Iranian war continuing in the Gulf, and was it an attempt to expand the war to engulf the Arab world in the Gulf area? Second, in its policy, the Kingdom relied on acting calmly to confront crises, even those that are not peculiar to the Arab and Islamic world, for the sake of maintaining a minimal degree of Arab and Islamic solidarity. Has what taken place in Mecca been an (?incentive) to adopt a positive attitude toward confronting all the fateful issues that threaten the Arab and Islamic worlds, particularly when the absence of Arab and Islamic solidarity has encouraged the Iranian regime to commit its crimes against the Arab and Islamic worlds?

[Nayif] As to the first question, what has appeared to us regrettably has been that, since the emergence of their revolution, the Iranian regime has been claiming that it is Islamic. Its intentions toward the Kingdom are not good. You as newsmen read and hear and see this in official and unofficial bulletins. The Iranians have filled the markets of the East and the West with their bulletins and their books against the Kingdom. In fact, their media action against the Kingdom is greater than their media campaign against Iraq itself, which is at war with them. We in fact are astonished at this matter. If their revolution was really a proper Islamic revolution, it should have met first and foremost the Saudi Arabian Kingdom. We heard this from some of their leaders at the beginning of their assumption of power. But their words and deeds did not coincide.

I do not think they want to enter into a war with the Kingdom, but they do want to undermine its security. They want to do anything in the Kingdom that would discredit Islam, discredit holy places, discredit the Saudi people, and consequently discredit the Saudi leadership. This is what they have been saying and what they are saying today. Some of you who have been listening to Khomeyni himself remember him saying just 2 days ago that Iraq and the war with Iraq is a lot less significant thanrelations with Saudi Arabia... He said this and I heard it myself. I do not think they would deny this.

Consequently, there is hatred and animosity against the Kingdom on the part of those in power in Iran. Therefore, our task here is not to allow them to do anything they want to do here. If they were acting in accordance with the Book of God and the Sunnah of His prophet, then they would not have made a target

of a state that places the Book of God and the Sunnah of His prophet as the arbiter in every matter. However, their aims are well known, and we do not trust them. If they have any intentions against the Kingdom, then they must be thinking that they cannot fullfil them. The Kingdom, with God's help, is capable of defending first and foremost its faith and itself. It does not wish to clash or enter into a struggle or sedition. Nevertheless, it is capable of repelling harm and aggression in whatever form these may take.

As for the other matter, it is an Arab-Islamic matter and concerns all, not just the Kingdom. I wish to emphasize that nothing can change the Kingdom's stance and method in political and ethical dealings and in dealing with events. We will continue, but under no circumstances does this mean tolerating aggression against us. The Kingdom will not be tolerant toward Iran or anyone else on the issue of violating its security and the security of the two holy mosques.

[Question] In the documentary broadcast by Saudi television concerning the crisis created by the Iranians at the pilgrimage, it was noticed that all the Iranian pilgrims belonging to the Revolutionary Guards were young men wearing the same uniform consisting of trousers and a shirt with the emblem of the Revolutionary Guards, while they were supposed to wear the ritual cloth of pilgrimage as demanded by the rites. What is Your Highness' comment on this? And is there any intention to prevent the pilgrimage of Iranians of a certain age group or to specify a certain age for performing pilgrimage?

[Nayif] As for the clothes, one actually wears the ritual pilgrimage cloth upon arrival in Mecca; after this, one wears normal clothing. Also, when a pilgrim wants to go to Mina and 'Arafat, he wears the ritual cloth. This is what happened, and we have not observed the Iranians to violate this.

As for age, we never specify an age, since the pilgrimage is the duty of every Muslim who can afford it, whether young or old.

[Question] Were the leaders of this sedition detained for trial and in order to learn the hidden reasons and motives for this painful incident?

[Nayif] The leaders of the sedition are in Iran. Those who came here were the tools of implementation. We do not need the tools so we allowed them to return as they came. The important thing is that we stopped their sedition.

[Question] Iran attempted in the recent past to commit aggression against the Kingdom's eastern shores. Saudi fighters intercepted the aircraft and shot down one of them. Does the Kingdom possess sufficient capability to deter any Iranian naval or aerial action in the eastern region?

[Nayif] Naturally, it possesses defensive forces that have been created in order to repel any aggression, whether from Iran and anyone else.

The Kingdom will reply with its forces, while relying on God's might and on its own strength, to any aggression. When one of the Iranian aircraft attempted to strike some targets in the Kingdom, Saudi planes intercepted and shot it down.

[Question] Your Highness, the sedition has ended, thanks be to God, with unanimous Islamic condemnation of those who committed it. They denounced Iran and supported the steps taken by the wise Saudi leadership. The pressing issue today is that the Iranian authorities are hatching a new conspiracy, a political and media conspiracy via the lies they are spreading concerning the stand of the Saudi Government and the islamic world in general.... The most recent example of this was what occurred yesterday. Karrubi, one of the pillars of the Khomeyni regime, claimed that what took place was a Saudi conspiracy.... By this he means, as he sought to make some Iranians believe, that the Saudi Government was the one that gathered the Iranians in order to stage the demonstration and then to strike — naturally, this cannot be conceived. But there are some forces that have publicized these acts through a planned propaganda campaign in order to discredit the image of Islam in international public circles. Would Your Highness, through this honorable gathering of men of intellect and the pen, offer an analysis of these lies and refute them objectively and logically so that public opinion is convinced that everything emanating from the Iranian authorities has no basis in truth?

[Nayif] Our task is to place the facts before the media in the Arab homeland, the Islamic world, and the world as whole. As for the question of analyzing and appraising these matters, this is their responsibility.

Of course, we cannot match Iran in its information efforts because it employs lies. We do not accept the tactic of lying because the believer must not tell lies. We have a media that is committed to the truth, that is committed to rising above trivialities, and that is committed to respecting the Saudi citizen and Arab, Islamic, and international public opinion. We cannot say what is not conceivable and we cannot say "tell lies about something" because we do not accept this method under any circumstances. If the issue is one of blustering and lying, then they can continue to do so as long as they wish. As for us, we will proceed with our information according to our values, which agree with our Islamic morals and with our morals as Arabs who uphold truth and respect those who respect themselves.

[Question] In light of what Iran has done, does the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia intend to sever its diplomatic relations with Iran, and what are the measures that the Kingdom intends to take?

[Nayif] The breaking of diplomatic relations is a political decision and this is not the place to answer this question.

[Question] What really took place in holy Mecca, and what were the evidence, motives, and aims of the Iranian conspiracy?

[Nayif] As far as the incident is concerned, what happened and how it happened has already been explained. We knew that it would take place. We were capable of containing it so that it would not go beyond the extent of the one gathering. This is among the burdens the Kingdom has had to bear during previous years so that there would be a decisive stand in regard to preventing Iran from carrying out such acts; therefore, it was inevitable that the Kingdom had to take such a stance in order

to put an end to such acts.

The Iranians assembled on orders from officials responsible for them; they came from every location and began to assemble from 1400 onwards. They harmed those who were leaving the Grand Mosque following the Friday prayers, then at about 1630 they completed their assembly. After this they continued with their speeches and slogans within sight of the security personnel. Had the matter ended there, the issue would have been regarded as being one that could be contained, especially at a time when all the pilgrims assemble in Holy Mecca.

At 1800 they led their demonstration toward southern Mecca, leading to the Grand Mosque, walking for not less than 1 and 1/2 km. Then they stopped, and were told that their action was unacceptable. They promised that they would halt their demonstration at a specific place, hundreds of meters away from the Grand Mosque. At 1830 they arrived at a point beyond which, they were told, it was impermissible for them to go. They were told that if they proceeded, they would then move to a street having no exits except to the Grand Mosque. As later became clear, their intention was to enter the Grand Mosque.

When they reached that point, which they specified to some officials as the place they were going to stop, there were suspicious movements. They began approaching the security cordon in that street and suddenly started to surge forward. Some security officials advanced toward them and asked them to calm down and to retreat. The security officials spoke to them in a very quiet and calm manner, but the demonstrators did not pay attention to them and rushed forcefully. They used sticks, stones, and knives in an attempt to penetrate the security cordon.

Naturally, the security members were alert and informed their commanders. It then became known that the demonstrators' intention was other than to demonstrate or issue slogans, and that they intended to enter the Grand Mosque. Orders were issued to prevent this and to disperse the demonstration. This was at 1830. At 1900 the matter had been concluded. The demonstration was dispersed and no one was allowed to enter the street leading to the Grand Mosque.

At that moment, their retreat took place in a forceful manner. There were huge crowds in the street and tens of thousand of Iranians, including women, the elderly, and the handicapped. During the demonstrators' retreat, many women and men fell down; here is when the deaths among the Iranians occurred. These were preceded by an assault against the security men, when death and injuries occurred among the security forces and the citizens. We announced this previously.

The important thing was preventing them from entering the Holy Mosque, because in the end their final objective was to head for the Holy Mosque. What did they want from the Holy Mosque? Certainly they desired sedition in the mosque since its doors are open to all and they were not prevented from encircling the K'abah. But they wanted to enter the Holy Mosque at a certain time when it is crowded with hundreds of thousands of people, at the time of evening prayers.

Of course they wanted to enter the Holy Mosque with their implements and consequently cause sedition inside it, when their victims would be the tens of thousands of Muslims. The objective was to spoil the pilgrimage, because, as is known, the pilgrimage is accomplished only if the Holy Mosque is entered. There is the encircling of the K'abah upon arrival and the discarding of the pilgrimage cloth, then the farewell circling. Thus, instead of the Muslims heading for a completion of their encircling of the K'abah, then heading for Mina and 'Arafat, and returning to perform the circling of the K'abah again and walk between Al-Safa and Marwah, they would find the Holy Mosque obstructed due to the sedition inside it.

God knows what would happen. Certainly the Saudi forces will be in control but only after the pilgrimage had been spoiled. This was the objective of the Iranian authorities. The intention was to portray the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as unable to maintain security and unable to allow the pilgrims to perform their duty. This means that instead of the pilgrims heading for 'Arafat and Mina, they would leave Mecca, with the pilgrimage thus having been spoiled.

The heads of the Iranian sedition do not care whether the pilgrimage is spoiled. Their task, due to their hatred and resentment of the Kingdom, drove them to portray the Kingdom as incapable of maintaining the security of the pilgrimage and the pilgrims.

This is what we were alert to and expected the Iranians to do, and this is the greatest proof that they wanted sedition. Of course, as the one who asked about documents stated, we did not desire sedition. The matter was depicted by the information and security apparatuses that wanted to document it all; they thus found this film. Now the Ministry of Information has prepared a film that all will view this evening and that will be distributed to anyone who wants a copy of it. The film tells the story from its beginning to its end and conveys the views of those who sow sedition and their statements. At the same time, the film provides details of the events. There is also a documentary prepared by the Ministry of the Interior explaining the security aspects and the security confrontation. It will also be available to anyone who wants it.

[Question] Your Highness, it has been noted that a large number of the Khomeyni guards who participated in the demagogue actions were carrying weapons such as knives. How could the Iranian pilgrims obtain these weapons? And are there sources, such as the Iranian Embassy, that supplied them with these weapons?

[Nayif] The pictures were published, and everyone has seen them. There is no doubt that knives, axes, and cleavers are used for several purposes and that they bring them for their own use, such as for cooking and so on. The markets offer such items. In fact, they are not by definition weapons, so they cannot be banned. However, they are tools that can be used as weapons; anyone can use a kitchen knife or any other knife to kill a person. They carried them for purposes differing from reasons why other pilgrims carry them. We do not ban these items that exist for specific purposes, but they were found on many of them when they entered the Grand Mosque. In fact, this was before going to Mina and after returning from Mina.

[Question] Were there any bullets fired during the clashes which led to the killing of many? Were there among the Iranian dead some who were killed by bullets? How do you explain the killing of this large number of people? Were there any acts of sabotage that occurred in Mecca at the same time?

[Nayif] When you have before you 70,000 or more people, all of whom have assembled in one place, and if fire is opened on them, how many would be killed? Thousands. This is a foregone conclusion in view of the number of people who were assembled. We all know that bullets kill thousands of people, especially in a gathering. When we said that we did not fire any bullets that was the truth. There is no doubt that you have heard some Iranian officials — and here I recall a statement by a person called Khalkhali who upon his arrival in Tehran stated that he was certain he saw 50,000 bullets being fired. How very strange. How did he count the 50,000 bullets? If 50,000 bullets were fired at a huge gathering, and even if we assume that 30,000 bullets miss their targets, then 20,000 bullets would have struck their targets. That means there would have been 20,000 people hit — killed or wounded. The Iranians simply lied; they just told a pack of lies.

I would like to reaffirm that no bullets were fired. Our intention was to control, prevent, and disperse that gathering by ordinary means. Our soldiers carried nothing but sticks and shields to protect them against stone throwing. They were able to disperse the gathering and the demonstration, and prevented the crowd from entering the Grand Mosque. Our soldiers did not need bullets. Had the matter developed further and had we learned that the Grand Mosque was actually threatened with forced entry and the deaths of Muslims, we would not have hesitated to open fire on those seeking to kill Muslims and spoil the pilgrimage. We would not have hesitated because God Almighty ordered us to resist if we were confronted with a fight in the Grand Mosque.

[Question] What justifies permitting the staging of a demonstration by 70,000 Iranian pilgrims, even if it was a silent march?

[Nayif] There was no letter or message exchanged between them and any of the officials, either before or during the pilgrimage. There was no agreement, not even an oral one. We told them that there should be no gathering. We used to say this every year, but despite this, they congregate. We used to avoid the occurrence of something similar to what happened. We most certainly were capable of dislodging any gathering, no matter what it was, but out of a desire not to create any problem we did not, because preventing a gathering may produce other acts.

As for permitting the gathering, we did not do so. They gathered despite our notice of disapproval. They seemed defiant. We said that we accepted the mistakes. I told the chief editor of the newspaper *Al-Siyasah* that there was a red line that we would not permit to be crossed. We knew we could contain the demonstration, whether it was staged by an individual or by a group. We have endured a lot and still endure acts by the Iranians, even their smuggling of explosives. We used to think that they would appreciate this and that we would come out of it with results serving not only the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, but also the Islamic world and particularly Iran.

Regrettably, however, our goodwill toward the Tehran rulers was not reciprocated, and our hopes evaporated. It was confirmed to us that they are the authors of sedition and that they were seeking sedition. Therefore, under no circumstances did we permit them to do what they did or gather with even only 100 men.

[Questions] In Pakistan there was unanimous appreciation of the measures and steps adopted by the Saudi security authorities in order to preserve the safety of the pilgrims. Also, in the Pakistani media there was wide condemnation of what the Iranians did in the Grand Mosque. Your Highness, we believe that your government should have adopted more severe measures against those persons in order to prevent them from coming to the pilgrimage and carrying out actions that contradict the teachings of Islam, like those committed during this pilgrimage.

We have noticed many lies about firing bullets and using weapons, and these lies were propagated by the media of the Israeli enemy.

Does Your Highness not think that Iran, by its actions at the Grand Mosque, has given Israel ammunition to use against the Islamic world and to show it in a distorted manner?

[Nayif] We thank the brother. We have witnessed what he mentioned about the feelings of the people of Pakistan and it was appreciated by the Kingdom, the leadership, and the people. As for refusing entry to any pilgrim, we always assume good rather than evil. However this does not mean that we rule out the possibility that something evil might happen. Therefore, we were preparing for this matter. It is well-known that any Muslim who comes to perform this rite of pilgrimage should have nothing but sincere intentions to meet his brother Muslims and to not commit evil or sin or argue. However, we found that Iranians do these things. What we hoped from them was above all to know that this is not a place for demonstrations, slogans, or placards. They do many things in their own country and this should be enough. If they want to do anything against any other country, as they claim, then Mecca and Medina are not the place for such things. We have always tried to contain any individual or group from some of the mistakes that occur, provided that this does not harm the other pilgrims or violate the security of the two holy mosques or the security of the Kingdom. We do not want to prevent any Muslim from attending the pilgrimage because we expect that he might do something. But if we realize that he has done something, then we are able to prevent him from doing it, and this is actually what happened.

It is painful that nobody speaks about opening fire except Iran and Israel. Israel said that helpless pilgrims from occupied Palestine said that they witnessed the opening of fire. This is a lie. But, in this, Israel is supporting Iran. Israel stands to benefit. We do not rule out the possibility that the issue was planned by Iran and Israel because ultimately Israel stands to benefit. Any enemy of the Islamic nation stands to benefit from such allegations. Israel's relation with the existing government in Iran is well-known to all and is no longer a secret. What has been so far published and will be published confirms Iran's close relation with Israel. If Iran wants to do something against Israel, why does it not move its agents in Lebanon — which is not far from them — against Israel instead of moving them to Mecca and

Medina where they created anarchy. Let them tell us that they are moving on Israel so that we can be among the first to walk behind them.

He who wants, as he alleges, to liberate Mecca — as Khomeyni and their leaders said — should, before coming to Mecca where there is a Muslim people ruled according to the Koran and the tradition of His prophet in both Mecca and Medina, go and liberate Jerusalem and become like Saladine, who was immortalized by history and who is remembered by Muslims even now. He should go there and raise the banner and fight Israel instead of seeking Israel's assistance in fighting a Muslim people, the people of Iraq.

[Question] The facts revealed by the Kingdom on the Iranian attempt to infiltrate explosives last year have proven to be a surprise. These exposed Iran's intentions, which the Tehran rulers had planned since their revolution:

First, are there other secrets involving the Iranians that have not been revealed?

Second, who defined the point that the Iranian demonstrators would not be permitted to pass beyond?

[Nayif] As for explosives, the ones which we publicized, and the fact that the matter was not made public at the time of the event did not mean that we expected good things from the Iranian authorities. This is a known matter. Their acts never indicated good faith. Rather, it was a hope that this would help in restricting the circle of problems in the region and also help efforts being made to end the Iran-Iraq war. The fact that we kept secret the matter of Iranians bringing in explosives does not mean that we expected good things from Iran. This plan was the work of specified persons having links with the Iranian authorities. The confessions that were made public stressed that it was the work of officials from the Revolutionary Guards, who do nothing without guidance from the competent authorities. Surely, as is the case in every state, the authorities must be aware of such a matter, and the Iranian authorities were assuredly aware of this matter.

As I stated and as was stated by other officials, the incident was kept secret as a result of mediation by some Islamic leaders in an attempt to reach rapprochement with Iran, or in order to strengthen their efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war.

It was the Kingdom's view that if there was something that could aid in a rapprochement or in removing some obstacles, then it should be done. The point is not to search for evidence against Iran and display it, but rather to work with all Muslims to try to hold Iran within a limit, to prevent an extension of the circle of problems, and to ensure an end to the current war in which the blood of Muslims is being shed.

The fact is that we have not kept anything secret regarding Iran; we have publicized everything that we know. If we ever come across something incriminating Iran and directed against the Kingdom, then, I pledge, we will hide nothing and we will make all details public.

As to the question of who was contacted, the contact took place between officials at the Ministry of Hajj and quarters in the Kingdom and the leader of Khomeyni's delegation, the so-called Karrubi. The contact took place in order to inform the delegation to stop the gatherings, demonstrations, and the raising of slogans. This is because these offend the pilgrims and their security, and because these are not Islamic practices and have no precedents. We stated this while we knew from previous years' experience that they would inevitably do these things, but we wanted to tell them to stop them anyway.

Naturally, they did not tell us that they would stop, but they did say that they would stand at a certain place and that they did not wish sedition. The truth is that when they failed in what they attempted to do in past years — bringing in explosives to use in Mecca, Mina, and Medina — they decided to do something different this year.

Prior to the pilgrimage, I said in answer to a question by one of our journalists concerning the mistakes, I said yes there were mistakes, but we try to prevent them because they will lead to other mistakes.

Indeed, what we expected did occur. We do not at all deny the existence of the Iranian group that attends every year, and we try to prevent them. One year we arrested all the officials and deported them, but in following years they returned. We could have kept this information from the pilgrims for the sake of their comfort, not in order to satisfy the Iranians or Iran's leadership, or out of fear of or hearing requests from anyone. We fear only God, and we implore only God.

[Question] I bear witness, Your Highness, that you presented to the Islamic world and to the pilgrims something we are all proud of as Muslims. My question is two-fold: It has been circulating or it was mentioned that there were gatherings of pilgrims or of the Iranian delegation in Medina. What is the truth about what happened?

The second part of the question is: You announced in your statement that the Kingdom is determined and resolved to prevent any irregularity in future pilgrimages. At the same time they announced in Tehran that they are determined and resolved to enlist half a million Revolutionary Guards next year to carry out what they claim to be a holy necessity. Your Highness, do you not see that the matter is grave or even greater than grave and that it requires a security measure in the Kingdom or at the Islamic level that would protect the house, soil, and land of God that God and we love most — Mecca and Medina — and the soil of all the Kingdom?

[Nayif] In fact there was a gathering in Medina. But it ended at a certain time and it did not go beyond a specific place. Nothing happened. It was similar to what happened in previous years. We thought the matter did not deserve publicity. Naturally, it was one of the things about which I already said and still say that we can accept as mistakes. This does not mean in any way whatsoever that we condone the action.

As for what the questioner has said about what the Iranians were saying or what could be said in the same vein, he has pointed out,

sending the Revolutionary Guards would constitute an invasion of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and would reveal that they are coming to fight the Muslims in the holy House of God and at the mosque of His prophet. Is it conceivable that we can accept this? Is there a state that says to another state: I will invade you? And later, would the invaded state open its airports, sea ports, and border crossings? I believe that this is not acceptable or logical. If they said this, not a single one of them would set foot in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The one who would come is the pilgrim — the one who performs the minor pilgrimage — or the visitor who would come to the House of God or the mosque of His prophet, or the brother, or the person who would come to the Kingdom pursuing a private matter or work or a private visit and nothing more.

I said in my statement that he who comes to the Kingdom to perform the pilgrimage will find all the Kingdom's capabilities placed at his disposal and service. But he who comes to sow sedition will not be allowed to achieve his aim under any circumstances. I thank the brother who outlined some of the services the Kingdom provides for the pilgrims. This is our duty and we should not be thanked for performing our duty.

[Question] Your Highness, in light of recent developments, what is the role of security coordination and security strategy in the GCC member states, and can Your Highness tell us the extent of this coordination?

[Nayif] In fact — and although this is not the place for answering such a question — as the brother who asked the question knows, the security strategy was approved by the interior ministers of the GCC member states. It was also approved by the GCC Ministerial Council. It has now been submitted to the summit which will convene in a few months. The summit will look into the strategy and approve it, if it is acceptable. As for the security coordination among the GCC member states, it exists, and contacts are continuous. Putting the other member states in the picture is moving ahead — it is done always and continuously. The brothers — the interior ministers of the GCC member states — were briefed right away regarding the recent incidents in Mecca.

[Question] Your Highness, Amir Nayif, the latest events, especially what took place in Mecca, have confirmed that dealing with the Iranian Government by employing restraint, mediation, and consultations is to no avail. The proof of this is in what has happened. Iran may exploit the fifth column. Are the Saudi authorities alert to this?

[Nayif] As for the so-called fifth column, I, God willing, consider our citizens in all the Gulf states to be above being agents for another state. They are citizens with rights and duties. However, any person who harms his homeland and becomes an agent for another state will certainly receive the deterrent punishment. We must certainly have a good opinion of our citizens, and if one is found deviating from the rest, this deviation is unlawful and might be by one person or by a group. Each one bears responsibility for his negative actions. Certainly, it is the duty of the security apparatuses to follow up such matters and prevent their occurrence, and should they take place, to control them and put an end to them. The judicial authorities also pass deterrent sentences for the executive authorities to implement.

[Question] Your Highness, it is said that the crisis with Iran has not reached the point of severing diplomatic relations, in order to perpetuate the good efforts carried out by several parties, including sisterly Syria, Oman, Algeria, and the UAE. We would like you to explain this.

[Nayif] In fact, I have no knowledge of any mediations. I do not know that there are mediations, and the Kingdom has not asked anyone to mediate.

[Question] Your Highness, following the Mecca events, the Kingdom contacted leaders of the Arab and Islamic world. The question is, how do some of the leaders who persist in supporting Iran view what took place in Mecca?

[Nayif] This, in fact, was announced. All the leaders who contacted the custodian of the two holy mosques or his royal highness the crown prince by telephone, by messages, or via representatives, have all denounced, condemned, and rejected this affair.

[Question] If the Iraq-Iran war and Iran's insistence on continuing the war display the ugly side of the Islamic world to the rest of the world, then what cannot be doubted is that the pilgrimage reflects an Islamic image, a march of the faithful, a unity, and an equality. It also reflects via the Saudi information media, which transmits this image to the outside world along with the giant achievements, that what took place — Your Highness referred to it as a sedition — was actually part of a destructive and subversive scheme that threatened to negate the Kingdom's achievements and to kill the shining image of Muslims in the entire world.

If the legal basis states that repelling evil heralds the advent of good things, it appears to me, Your Highness, that the matter had gone beyond evil deeds to reach sabotage. Your Highness, what is your opinion on whether the ideal way to benefit from the Islamic world's unanimous condemnation of what occurred lies in employing this vast support to bolster this image? We would like to maintain this good image and we believe it will remain positive. We believe that the Holy Mosque will remain safe always and forever, God willing, first through what Your Highness is doing, and also through the work of the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques.

[Nayif] What occurred in holy Mecca underlined the Iranian rulers' intentions to ignite the spark of sedition in any part of the Islamic homeland. This is in addition to dealing with terrorists in any part of the world. Consequently, this matter confirms what is in the Tehran rulers' minds and plans. The Islamic world is called upon to see these people for what they really are. It should deal with them and their movement from this standpoint and in the same measure. There should be clear and firm stands that underline this and put an end to this un-Islamic and inhuman recklessness by a faction that appointed itself as ruler of a Muslim people and a Muslim nation. This is a collective responsibility placed on the shoulders of the leaders and ulema of Islam, Muslim intellectuals, and Muslim scholars. The responsibility also lies with everyone who shoulders human responsibility in this world.

[Question] I was in Tehran last week and had the opportunity to talk to a number of Iranians. I found that they had the impression that Iran is in a state of war with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Is this true?

The second part of my question is: I had the opportunity to meet with a number of Iranian shaykhs and ulema. They informed me that the problem with the Kingdom has historical roots connected with Islam and that they are linked to hatred that has occurred. In their opinion, in order to improve relations with Iran, the Kingdom must make a gesture toward Iran.

[Nayif] As to the question of whether the Kingdom and Iran are in a state of war, it is not true. The Kindom does not want war and Iran has not declared war on the Kingdom. Therefore, this is not true. The Kingdom hopes for and looks forward to the day when its relations with Iran will be fraternal and Islamic; a neighborly relationship. The Kingdom also hopes that God Almighty will remove the regime with which Iran has been afflicted, a regime that wants to humiliate the people of Iran, wants to exterminate it in the fields of war, and wants to discredit it in the eyes of the Islamic world and the world as a whole.

As for the second part of the question, regarding what was said by the Iranian ulema and quoted by the questioner, in fact, I do not know what this hatred which exists between the Kingdom and Iran is. If we knew what it was I could tell you something, if there was something. What we know is that there is nothing that I know of. As for erecting a monument to 'Ali ibn al-Talib, the khalifah of the prophet of God — may God rest his soul — this is something that we have neither been ordered to do by God Almighty nor by the prophet — God's peace and blessings be upon him — He has not ordered us to do so. Not even Abu Bakr or 'Umar ibn al-Khattab or 'Uthman ibn 'Affan or 'Ali ibn al-Talib [the four who succeeded the prophet] have ordered us to do so. In fact, they destroyed the idols in Mecca. Why, then, do they want us to erect another idol?

If this is what the questioner is conveying, we are all aware of the fact that the Iranian rulers want to worship idols which the prophet of God, — God's peace and blessings be upon him — destroyed.

[Question] Your Highness, I believe that this incident has projected to Your Highness, to the Kingdom, and to all the Arabs that the Arab press has come out in one unified procession from the first moment of the outbreak of the disturbances and particularly the sedition. This is because the sedition actually began with the emergence of this wretched regime. From the first moment, the Arab press in all its colors defended the Kingdom and denounced the abominable crime. Even those who opposed it on a minor level seem to have abandoned their positions and risen to a level of responsibility. The Arab procession came out — the Arab press represents the fourth power and the conscience of the Arab people from the ocean to the Gulf — as one entity to explain to the world about the crime and the other crimes that the Qom regime has been committing every moment. A colleague has said that there is an Iranian media conspiracy that has already begun.

Your Highness, from your official position, you know and you have explained that their media campaigns have been directed against the Kingdom for some years. The Arab press, which we consider to be the battalions that are far advanced and present in Europe, for some 8 years has been facing ferocious campaigns by that miserable regime. Despite its vast wealth and the huge buildings it bought for many of millions, this regime could not buy the conscience of one Arab newspaper or one Arab magazine in Europe. This is something that gives rise to great pride. Your Excellency the minister, they are [words indistinct] to 10 million pounds sterling. They could find nothing but scum and published nothing but miserable news stories they distributed free of charge on the sidewalks and outside the entrances to mosques.

We have all endured and these colleagues have also endured. They bury their faces in their hands as they confront those criminals and mass murderers. Several of us have been exposed to assassination attempts. We do not want a reward or thanks but we do want a channel to remain open between us and you through such meetings. It is good when one brother can sit next to his fellow brother and hold debates; when we can tell one another about what has been hidden and be provided with guidance and with the facts, because we regard ourselves in the line of confrontation. Our brothers are behind us, engaged in defense and in our work. We have been living through 7 hard years, as you explained at the beginning of this conference, and we believe that this year will see the end of those criminals who disturbed our peace and our spirit and who have brought disrepute to Islam and disfigured its image. Muslims in Europe [as received] have been put in a bad situation while they are defending Islam, because they claim to be Muslims.

Your Highness, we confronted hordes of our fellow journalists soon after the incident. These journalists did not go to embassies or media offices. Every one of them, however, went to press offices which are found near them. Their only concern was to discuss one thing, namely, the opening of fire. We told them that if the Kingdom had opened fire or if a single bullet had been fired by the Kingdom, the Kingdom was able from the first moments to dig graves and bury those killed. It would have reason to do so because the temperature was 45 or 50 degrees centigrade and under those temperatures a dead body cannot be allowed to remain unburied for more than 2 hours.

The Kingdom, however was confident that it did not open fire. Regrettably, this aspect was the focus of attention of all our fellow foreign journalists. They have been looking into it and have been commenting on it. Many journalists were convinced that if there had been a shooting, a criminal attack, or harm done to the pilgrims, the Kingdom would not have handed over the bodies of those who died to their families. This is the greatest proof.

We are interested in journalists' opinions. It is also of interest to us that you open your hearts and doors before us and that we place our hands in each another's. We should not listen to the clowns and the deranged who have disappeared in these crises — those who tried to discredit the expatriate press, whether it is based abroad or had emigrated, because they are men who are enemies of these regimes.

We are the troops who have to face the hordes of criminals who sit in comfortable offices with their invited groups and who call themselves the press. (? We) are against them. Where are they?

There has been one single protest from the secretary of the Gulf grouping. Where is he? Where did he vanish to, this man who has been trying to destroy the press and bring dishonor to it? We warn you, as the brother said to those who presence as a fifth column you have denied. No, Your Highness, none of those who infiltrated the Kingdom and who inherited their hatred of this country carried Arab nationality. Those who have been uncovered in the Gulf were not Arabs but they carried Arab nationality and they tried to blow up the gas and oil fields and blow up the amir of Kuwait. They all carried Arab nationality. Let us be wary of them; and let you be the true title of the great and open Arab information. Let us open a new page. You must not deprive us of meeting with you from time to time so that we can debate and hold dialogue as brothers who appreciate your feeling and you, as a good listener. We hope to achieve much through you and through our colleague, Al-Sha'ir.

[Nayif] Thank you, honorable brother, for your sentiments toward the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I would like to affirm that our hearts are open, as are our doors, to our Muslim and Arab brothers the journalists and the men of the pen. We also welcome any man who is seeking the truth and who wants to hear the truth. In fact, my thanks to all. Perhaps we have gone on a little longer than they would have liked.

I would like to reiterate my thanks. To anyone who has not had an opportunity to ask a question, I say that I personally wholeheartedly welcome any question that I may receive from a newspaper or from any chief editor or any writer or from any person who wants to ask a question on any subject. I am fully prepared to answer it. The truth is that we would have liked to answer all of your questions but time does not permit us to do more than we have done. We must end our meeting.

We welcome other meetings like this one at any time, whether at the level of a private individual meeting or at a collective level with my colleague Brother Ali al-Sha'ir in his capacity as minister of information in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. His doors are always open and his heart is open to any Arab or Muslim or any person who is engaged in information in the entire world, especially those who wants to know the facts.

Thanks to all and thank you for attending, and thank you for your interest in the event. Thanks also for the good words which I have heard from you and thank you for your full understanding of the events. I repeat that I am ready to answer any question that reaches me in writing and I promise to answer it later because time does not allow this now. It has been a good opportunity to meet in this honorable gathering. God willing, we will meet again this evening in a meeting of friendship and fraternity so that we may talk with one another in an atmosphere away from sedition. May God protect us from the seditionists and their evil. Thanks to all.

Ministry Asks Pilgrims To Depart by Fixed Dates

LD261707 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 26 Aug — The Saudi Ministry of Interior has called upon all pilgrims not to remain in the Kingdom after God has enabled them to perform the pilgrimage rites in peace and tranquillity.

In a statement addressed to all those who came to the Kingdom for major or minor pilgrimages or on a visit, the ministry draws their attention to the need to abide by the dates fixed for their departure from the Kingdom and not to lag behind.

It stresses that remaining in the Kingdom constitutes a violation of the laws and regulations in force, which will render anyone doing so liable to apprehension, punishment, and forced expulsion.

The ministry urges citizens and regular residents of the Kingdom not to employ anyone who remains behind, be he a pilgrim or a visitor, and not to give any form of shelter to any such person. It warns that anyone providing employment or shelter to or concealing anyone remaining behind will be severely punished and will subject himself to prison and fines.

It adds that anyone who violates these instructions will be responsible for all rights and obligations undertaken by those whom he employs, shelters, or conceals. [passage omitted]

'Responsible Source' Denies Iran Claims of Attack

LD262209 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1505 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Riyadh, 26 Aug (SPA) — A responsible Saudi source has stated the following to SPA: At noon today, Radio Tehran broadcast as part of the entertaining fabrication series disseminated by the miserable Tehran rulers that the falsely named Hizballah of Hejaz carried out a military operation in which it blew up the Al-Dammam passport office.

The source stated that while categorically denying this report, we wish to affirm what we have previously said: The Iranian information media has lost all reason and has begun to fabricate lies and slander that exist only in the imagination of their sick sources.

Communique No 2,795 on 25-26 Aug War Operations

JN261620 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Communique No 2,795 issued by the Armed forces General Command on 26 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces stand as an impregnable stronghold that protects the beloved Iraqi territory. They also confront the defeated Iranian regime's insistence on prolonging the war and the aggression. The following is a roundup of our units' activities for last night and today:

1. One of our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah sighted an enemy group. It pounded the group with its weapons, forcing it to flee. Our units killed or wounded several members of the enemy group. Elsewhere in the same sector, one rogue was killed, four others were wounded, and one observation post and one shelter were destroyed.

2. Several enemy soldiers were killed, one vehicle and one infantry position were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was detonated in the I Army Corps northern sector.

3. Two enemy observation posts were destroyed and one ammunition dump was detonated in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. Last night, the criminal enemy used long-range artillery to shell residential quarters in the heroic city of Basra. As a result of the enemy shelling, several houses and civilian properties were damaged.

[Signed] the Armed Forces General Command, 26 August 1987

INA Cites Civilian Injuries in Basra Shelling

JN270737 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Basra, southern Iraq, 27 Aug (INA) — Residential areas in the city of Basra last night came under long-range artillery shelling by the Iranian regime's forces. An INA correspondent in Basra said the Iranian artillery shelling wounded a number of Iraqi civilians and damaged a number of houses, shops, and civilian properties.

Ramadan Receives Zambian Prime Minister

JN261648 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Aug (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received Zambian Prime Minister Kebby Musokotwane and his accompanying delegation here today. After this, Ramadan and Musokotwane held a closed meeting. During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations and ways of promoting them, the Iraq-Iran war, and international issues of mutual interest.

Taha Yasin Ramadan emphasized the strong Iraqi-Zambian relations. He said President Saddam Husayn and Kenneth Kaunda laid the foundations of these ties. He also praised the promotion of these relations thanks to the many meetings held between the two countries officials. Ramadan said he is confident the Zambian prime minister's visit and his talks in Baghdad will bring good results which translate both countries' desire to further develop their existing relations.

The Zambian prime minister expressed appreciation for Iraq's peaceful stands. He also expressed appreciation for the efforts exerted by international and Islamic organizations to end the war between Iraq and Iran and to establish a comprehensive peace in the region. The Zambian prime minister praised the advanced relations that exist between Iraq and Zambia. He said both countries are constantly working to enhance peace and stability in the region.

Delegations Hold Talks

JN261710 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Aug (INA) — The official talks between Iraq and Zambia began here today. During the talks, the Iraqi side was led by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister. The Zambian side was led by Zambian Prime Minister Kebby Musokotwane. Taha Yasin Ramadan referred to the special relations between the two countries. He said these relations are based on principles, confidence, and mutual respect. He also praised Zambia's support for Iraq in its just war to repulse the Zionist Iranian aggression. He added that the Iraqis under President Saddam Husayn are exerting every effort to bring about peace in the region. He affirmed that at the same time, the Iraqis will continue to defend their sovereignty and land courageously because they are defending peace, security, and sovereignty.

For his part, the Zambian prime minister stressed his country's support for and solidarity with Iraq in its just war to defend its land and sovereignty and to achieve peace and stability in the region. He praised Iraq's peaceful positions represented by the five principles announced by President Saddam Husayn as a base for peace in the region. He regretted Iran's rejection of the international will and its insistence on continuing the war. He affirmed that the international community is now fully aware that Iran does not want peace. He also said his country is eager to expand and promote cooperation and friendly relations with Iraq in all areas in the interest of their development in both friendly countries.

During these talks, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and ways to promote them in the interest of the two friendly countries. They also discussed the Iraq-Iran war and international issues of common interest. The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by Education Minister 'Abd al-Qadir 'Izz al-Din, the Trade Ministry under secretary, and a number of officials. They were attended on the Zambian side by Jameson K.M. Kalaluka, Zambian minister of commerce and industry, and a number of other officials.

Peres Calls on Husayn To Make 'Dramatic Move'
TA261022 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
26 Aug 87 pp A1, A2

[Report by Rafa'el Mann]

[Excerpt] In a message conveyed recently to King Husayn, Shim'on Peres calls upon the monarch to make a dramatic move to help remove the doubts prevailing among the Israeli public concerning the international conference and Jordan's willingness to start direct negotiations with Israel.

The message was conveyed through a non-Israeli personage who met with Peres and later visited Jordan. Peres explained that the Jordanians can help Israeli public overcome its doubts if they take a step that would influence Israeli public opinion.

It has been learned that in the oral message the foreign minister does not state what step he means, but rather suggests that Husayn himself choose a way to influence Israeli public opinion. Peres made it clear to Husayn that he is continuing his efforts to promote the idea of an international conference which would lead to direct negotiations.

In his meeting with the aforementioned personage, Peres explained that one of the reasons keeping him in the government was the fear that if the Alignment were to leave, the settlement drive in the territories would be renewed. Peres said that the Alignment has a majority for early elections, but the move for dissolving the Knesset will be made only in October, following the summer recess. [passage omitted]

Inner Cabinet Approves Second Irangate Report
TA270819 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
27 Aug 87 p 2

[Text] The inner cabinet yesterday approved the second Israeli report on Israel's role in Irangate. The report will be submitted shortly to the congressional Inouye Committee, which is investigating the affair.

The report, drawn up by Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein and Aluf [Major General] (Ret.) Refa'el Vardi, gives a detailed description of Israel's role in the secret trilateral arms deal and negotiations with the U.S. and Iran during 1985-86. An initial report, dealing with financial aspects of the deals, was submitted by Israel to the congressional committee earlier this year.

The report will not be given to U.S. special investigator Lawrence Walsh, who has insisted that Israelis involved in the affair give evidence in person to his team. This spring Walsh subpoenaed two of the major Israeli figures involved, David Kimche, the former-director general of the Foreign Ministry, and Al Schwimmer, a businessman.

Israel is fighting the subpoenas in a New York court, which is due to meet again on the matter next month.

Peres, Air Force Commander Turn Against Lavi
TA261041 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
26 Aug 87 pp A1, A2

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Excerpt] Air Force Commander Major General 'Amos Lapidot, considered the staunchest Lavi supporter in the General Staff, said this week that under the present circumstances, it is preferable to stop production of the Lavi and channel the funds to the IDF alternatives.

Maj Gen Lapidot said we should not produce the Lavi at all costs, and it is obvious that we should not produce it within the present budgetary framework, or even within the framework of the additional funds proposed by the Lavi's backers in the government.

There has also been a sharp turnaround in the position of Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, and he will apparently join in the proposal to stop the project raised by Ministers Nisim and Rabin. Peres is now trying to formulate a new decision which will give limited assurances of the continuation of technological development at Israel Aircraft Industries.

In talks held with Defense Minister Rabin over the past few days, Peres spoke in a different tone and although he did not explicitly say so, it looks like he has decided not to support the continuation of the Lavi project.

In talks in the Defense Minister's Office, Peres said: "I know and understand that it is impossible to continue producing the Lavi, and even if the decision is to continue, the government will have to convene in about a year in order to cancel the project." [passage omitted]

Yugoslavia Considering Renewal of Relations
TA270518 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Belgrade is considering the possibility of resuming diplomatic relations with Israel. Details about the discussions have been brought to the attention of Israeli diplomats in Geneva. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the Yugoslav Government is examining various levels of diplomatic relations, such as the opening of interest offices in Belgrade and Tel Aviv, based on the example of Poland or Hungary or a higher level of diplomatic representation.

Bethlehem Mayor Comments on Romania Visit
TA261334 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
26 Aug 87 pp 1, 11

[Text] Bethlehem — Mayor Ilyas Frayj returned to Bethlehem yesterday after paying an official visit to Romania. He also met a number of Jordanian officials and discussed with them the town's development projects.

Frayj told *Al-Quds* that he met Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu as well as high-ranking Romanian officials and explained to them the Palestinian viewpoint and explicit desire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace through an international peace conference.

Frayj added that he got the impression that the Romanian president was totally convinced of the necessity of convening an international peace conference on the Middle East. Frayj said that the Romanian president was sincere in his position toward the international conference.

Frayj said that the Romanian president informed him of his disapproval of the Israeli proposal to hold a regional peace conference as an alternative to an international conference. He said that the international conference concept was currently losing support in the region, despite the almost unified Arab stance supporting the concept.

Frayj said that the Palestinian people in the occupied territories unanimously support the concept, particularly because the situation here has become very grave due to Israeli settlement policies.

Basyuni 'Humiliated' by Soldiers at IDF Roadblock

TA270610 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0500 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni claims he was delayed and humiliated at an IDF roadblock at the exit from the Gaza Strip. In a letter sent to the head of the IDF Liaison Unit, Basyuni expressed anger over the incident. The IDF has apologized and is investigating the incident. Our military correspondent Alon Ben-David has more details:

The incident occurred on Tuesday, around midnight. Ambassador Basyuni was leaving the Gaza Strip, after having visited the family of former Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawwa. His car was stopped at the Erez roadblock, and Basyuni says that he was delayed for a long time and humiliated by the soldiers manning the roadblock. One of the soldiers, a Druze, cursed the ambassador in Arabic and, according to Basyuni, shamed him in front of his family.

Yesterday Basyuni addressed a sharp letter to Brigadier General Oren Shahor, head of the IDF Liaison Unit. In the letter he expressed great anger over the incident and threatened that if such an incident recurs, he will turn to the political echelon in Cairo. Brig Gen Shahor apologized to the ambassador immediately and stated that the IDF will investigage the incident and give him the results of the investigation.

The commander of the Southern Command decided to investigate the incident himself. In the investigation, the Druze soldier claimed that he had acted according to the regulations, and that he had not known that the passenger in the car was the Egyptian ambassador. At the order of the Southern Command commander, the soldiers at the roadblock were briefed on how to handle diplomatic personnel.

Police Arrest Faysal al-Husayni 26 Aug

NC261853 Paris AFP in English 1843 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Jerusalem, Aug 26 (AFP) — A well-known Palestinian figure and member of the Supreme Islamic Council of Jerusalem, Faysal al-Husayni, was taken into custody by Israeli police Wednesday, Palestinian sources said.

Mr al-Husayni, 42, was summoned by police in Jerusalem and interrogated before being told he would be taken into custody for 48 hours, the sources said. They said police did not provide reasons for the measure.

The director of the Center of Arab Studies of Jerusalem and member of the Supreme Islamic Council of the city, Mr al-Husayni had been detained in April by the Israeli military authorities and held for three months on allegations that he held a key role in Fatah, the mainsteam movement of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The human rights organisation Amnesty International had described him as a "prisoner of conscience."

Mr al-Husayni, who belongs to an influential Palestinian family, has the respect of nationalist Palestinians in the Israeli occupied territories.

1 Person Injured in Tel Aviv Bomb Explosion

TA270841 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0830 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] A bomb exploded a short time ago in an Egged bus at their garage in southern Tel Aviv. One person was seriously injured. Our police affairs correspondent Dov Gilhar reports from the scene:

[Gilhar] The explosion occurred before 1100. The bomb exploded inside an Egged bus that was parked in the Egged parking lot near the train station to Jerusalem. The circumstances are still unclear. The person who boarded the bus was seriously injured. A Magen David Adom ambulance crew gave him first aid and transferred him to the hospital.

MONITIN Uncovers Disorder, Corruption in Mossad

TA270941 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
27 Aug 87 pp 1, 2

[Text] Uncomplimentary details on the situation in Mossad are being published for the first time in the upcoming edition of the monthly, *Monitin*.

The report quotes senior Mossad members, one of whom is mentioned by name: Brigadier General Yosef Lunz, now deceased. These senior officials claimed that there are serious faults in Mossad's work. Among other things decisions are said to be made on the basis of narrow personal interests, an aspect expressed mainly in the area of senior appointments. They claim that the right people are there, but they are leaving the institution

and are sometimes even forced to leave. People who are qualified for recruitment refrain from joining because of the situation.

The gravest issue raised by these workers is the financial corruption that has spread among various levels, but which is particularly noticeable among those levels that should set a personal example. The senior Mossad members also claimed that this situation is extremely dangerous, and they will not hesitate in spelling out several blunders and illustrating the disruption of work to make their point.

The report claims that what these senior workers said still holds today, and that Mossad has not corrected the faults uncovered by Lunz and his colleagues. Mossad's present output does not reflect its real potential and the investment put into it by the Israeli public in terms of manpower and equipment. Many former Mossad members believe the only way to shake the system in a positive way is by outside handling. *Monitin* also divulges that in the last few years the battle between the IDF Intelligence Branch and Mossad has heated up due to the Intelligence Branch's demand to be given greater involvement in the collection of information. Intelligence elements who worked parallel with the Mossad leveled devastating criticism against it. They claim that Mossad's share in the presentation of intelligence material to the political echelon and for military intelligence purposes is marginal and that its method of presentation is often mistaken and misleading.

Monitin also divulges that minds have already been made up regarding the appointment of the next Mossad chief, and that a group of former Mossad men took an initiative and appealed to a political figure to prevent the election of a candidate they deem unfit.

The monthly also reveals that regarding the bombing of the Iraqi reactor there were differences of opinion between the head of the Mossad and his deputy, and that Prime Minister Menahem Begin preferred the opinion of the Mossad deputy chief.

Iraqi Industry Minister Departs Amman 26 Aug

JN261814 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Amman — Iraqi Industry Minister Hatim 'Abd al-Rashid left Amman at noon today after a 3-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, he signed the program of the Jordanian-Iraqi Company for Industry as well as the main projects to be implemented by the company. He was seen off at Queen Alia International Airport by Dr Raja'i al- Mu'ashshir, minister of industry, trade, and supply; the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Supply under secretary; and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Foreign Minister Returns to Amman, Makes Statement

JN270642 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has returned to Amman after participating in the meetings of the extraordinary session of the Arab League Council. In an interview with our correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab, the minister had this comment on the foreign ministers' resolution:

[Begin recording] If we review the overall resolution, we find unequivocal sentences and articles supporting Iraq and condemning and rejecting Iran's aggression and its violation of the sanctity of the pilgrimage season and denouncing and rejecting the Iranian violation of the immunity of the Saudi and Kuwaiti Embassies in Tehran. These sentences and articles also strongly defend Iraq, its stand, and its honorable defense of its sovereignty and territorial integrity. [end recording]

AL-DUSTUR Views Arab League Council Resolution

JN260857 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Aug pp 1, 27

[Editorial: "The Minimal Formula"]

[Text] The resolutions of the Arab League Council of Ministers at its emergency meeting yesterday maintain the minimum level that has governed Arab action and cooperation for several years. These decisions express the Arab League countries' support for and moral assistance to Iraq and the Gulf countries without taking any practical step to make this support and assistance concrete.

In their communique yesterday, the Arab foreign ministers affirmed their solidarity with Iraq in its legitimate defense of its sovereignty and territorial integrity and its endeavors for a just peace. The foreign ministers also renewed their firm rejection of Iran's occupation of any part of Iraqi territory. Moreover, they called on the UN Security Council to implement Resolution No 598 in accordance with the provisions of the UN Charter.

Despite their positiveness, these resolutions are repetitions of the long series of stands of previous Arab League Council meetings and do not pay attention to the serious new changes and developments preceding this emergency meeting, foremost of which is the volatile situation in the Arab Gulf, unprecedented in the past 7 years.

Perhaps the most important resolution — the one that inspires optimism more than any other — is the one calling for this emergency session to remain open providing it resumes no later than 20 September to reconsider future Arab-Iranian relations in light of the Iranian position on UN Security Council Resolution No 598.

While we view the emergency meeting resolutions as embodying an Arab stand that could be taken in this phase because of the intense Arab divisions and differences, we hope that between now and the coming Arab League Council meeting there will be an opportunity to review thoroughly the stand toward Iran and its direct threat to the whole Arab situation. Perhaps this will help in the formation of a unified stand and the adoption of practical steps to deter Iran and stop its continuous blackmail and threats and aggression against the fraternal countries.

King Husayn Receives UAE Air Force Commander

JN262006 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] His Majesty the king received at Al-Nadwah Palace this afternoon the commander of the UAE Air Force Colonel Muhammad ibn Zayid Al Nuhayyan. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn, the prime minister, the Armed Forces commander in chief, and the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force.

Earlier Col Al Nuhayyan visited the headquarters of the Royal Jordanian Air Force where he was welcomed by the commander of the Air Force. He also visited an Air Force base.

Royal Decree Adjourns Parliament Session

JN261149 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Amman — A royal decree has been issued adjourning the extraordinary session of parliament effective Saturday, 22 August 1987.

'Arafat, Shamir Reportedly Held 'Indirect' Talks

NC270637 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] The *Al-Safir* newspaper reports this morning that Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu recently held indirect negotiations between Yasir 'Arafat and enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. 'Arafat and the enemy prime minister had visited the Romanian capital within approximately 1 week of each other.

The paper says that Ceausescu, who met with 'Arafat on 12 August, played the role of a substitute negotiator 4 days later with Shamir, who visited Bucharest on 16 August. The sources [as heard] said that the negotiations centered on a proposal to convene an international conference to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Demonstrators Damage Shops in Beirut; Gunfire Heard

NC271127 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1140 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] There was a new development today when masses of people took to the streets as a result of the aggravation of the economic crisis amid a total stalemate of the political situation. At 1230 today, a huge demonstration was staged on the Bank of Lebanon Street involving thousands of men and women. The demonstrators assembled in front of the bank entrance and attempted to encircle it from all directions in an expression of anger at the spiralling prices that are afflicting the people. The demonstrators also were protesting the lack of any effective action by officials. The security men protecting the bank fired into the air in an attempt to disperse the demonstrators. The crowd failed to disperse and instead continued to shout and denounce the rise in the prices of foodstuffs and the collapse of the Lebanese currency's rate of exchange against other foreign currencies. They set fire to car tires in the street.

The demonstrators then proceeded toward Al-Hamra' Street, raising angry shouts and calling on officials to find quick solutions to the stifling economic crisis. As they proceeded along Al-Hamra' Street, shots were heard being fired into the air. Our correspondent has not yet determined the outcome of the firing.

The approximately 4,000 demonstrators are still in the area after having destroyed exchange shops and other shops, scattering glass shards in the street and causing considerable material damage. Eyewitnesses said that the demonstrators emptied funds from exchange shops and scattered them in the street and in garbage dumps. Some of the slogans which the demonstrators shouted denouncing the regime are: "We are starving; we want to eat, we want to drink; we want medical treatment."

Earlier, vehicles closed the Cornich al-Mazra'ah road near the Abu Haydar gas station and blocked traffic in both directions. Many citizens there staged a demonstration in protest over the rising prices of commodities, the deterioration of the Lebanese currency, the lack of gasoline in stations and its transaction when available on black markets from between 800-1,000 Lebanese pounds per tin. [4 gallons].

Lebanon's Birri, Junblatt Meet in Damascus

JN261922 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1730 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] A meeting was held in Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's office in Damascus today. It was attended by Walid Junblatt and 'Asim Qansuh. Nabih Birri joined the conferees an hour later.

It seems that these meetings are being held to clear the atmosphere for a reconciliation between Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt.

'All' Differences 'Cleared'

NC270748 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0715 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] 'Asim Qansuh, [secretary general of the Ba'th Party organization in Lebanon], has described the meetings among 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Minister Nabih Birri, and Minister Walid Junblatt in Damascus as positive. He has asserted that an agreement has been reached on all points under study. He added that all of the differences which had marred relations between Birri and Junblatt have been cleared because they were the result of a misunderstanding of certain issues, as he put it.

Qansuh expects the Unification and Liberation Front to meet in Beirut following the return of George Hawi [Lebanese Communist Party leader] from his trip abroad.

Israeli Planes Fly Over Tyre, Palestinian Camps

NC270953 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0945 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over the south, particularly over Tyre and the [Palestinian] camps, reaching as far as the mountain, before 1100 today.

1 UNIFIL Soldier Killed, 2 Wounded in Attack

NC261859 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1845 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] A UNIFIL patrol in the town of Sribbin in the South was fired on this afternoon. Three soldiers were hit; one of them died instantly, and the two others were transferred to Al-Naqurah.

Resistance Group Attacks Lahd Patrol; Casualties

NC261244 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
200 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] A resistance group detonated an explosive device while a Lahd militia patrol was passing on the 'Aynata-Saff al-Hawa Road this morning. The explosion caused casualties among the patrol members.

Four Explosions Reported in West Beirut
NC262001 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0945 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Four explosions occurred in West Beirut tonight. The last was at 2000, when unidentified persons hurled a hand grenade at the internal security forces traffic detachment in Verdun, causing only material damage.

Syrians Kill 1 'Fundamentalist' in Clash
NC270629 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0515 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] It was reported last night that a fundamentalist was killed and another wounded in a clash between Syrian observers and fundamentalists in the Al-Hilaliyah area.

Amal, Palestinians Clash in Sidon Area
NC262003 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1945 GMT 26 Aug87

[Text] In southeast Sidon clashes with rockets have been raging between Amal gunmen and Palestinians since 2000 on the combat lines of Jinsnaya, Al-Mujaydil, and Maria.

Islamic Resistance Claims 25 Aug Attack
NC261634 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1530 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] In a statement today the Islamic Resistance reported that its fighters had laid mines on the Shihin Road in the western sector and detonated those mines at 1000 yesterday as an Israeli occupation patrol was passing. One Israeli vehicle was completely destroyed and another damaged, and their crews were killed and wounded, the group said, adding that the Israeli enemy had admitted that nine members of the patrol were wounded, three seriously.

The border strip groups of the Lebanese National Resistance have issued a statement saying that one of their number fired several rockets at a post held jointly by the Israeli occupation forces and Agent Lahd's militias on Tallat Bra'shit at 1030 this morning. Some of the rockets scored direct hits.

The national resistance also declared that the Martyr 'Ali Group detonated an explosive device by remote control as a joint patrol of the Israeli forces and their agents was passing on the Al-'Ayshiyah-Kafr Huna road yesterday morning, destroying a truck. The same group also detonated an explosive charge when a patrol of the Agent Lahd militia was passing on the Al-Ma'aliyyah-Majdal Silm-Qabrikha triangle, damaging a jeep and wounding its passengers.

AL-BA'TH on 'Price' for U.S. Fleets in Gulf

JN270628 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0415 GMT 27 Aug 87

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Political Price for Military Concentrations in Gulf Waters," *Al-Ba'th* says: It is never true that U.S. military concentrations can bring peace to the Gulf region. Long experience has shown that fleets and military blackmail neither protect anyone nor achieve peace but rather increase tension, establish enormous pretexts for blackmail, create new possibilities for explosions, and threaten regional and international security.

Al-Ba'th adds: Joint Arab efforts and sound Arab action should aim to remove these fleets from Arab waters. It should be clear that imperialist aggression against the Arab nation is indivisible because its foremost target is the Arab nation's central issue. The U.S. military concentration and mobilization of fleets and warships in such unusually great numbers infringe not only on the independence, security, and sovereignty of the region's states but also aim to directly harm the pan-Arab cause in general and the Palestine question in particular.

The political price the U.S. Administration is seeking from these massive naval concentrations, exploiting the serious current situation, is one that serves its strategic interests — imposing the U.S.-Israeli settlement and forcing the Arabs to accept capitulationist conditions to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Will the Arabs realize this high political price of the imperialist military concentrations before it is too late?

Prime Minister Meets With Lebanon's Junblatt

JN271144 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Damascus — At 1300 today, Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm received PSP leader Walid Junblatt. They discussed the situation in Lebanon.

Communique With USSR Parliamentarians Issued

JN262054 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Syria and the Soviet Union have expressed their satisfaction with the continuing development of overall Soviet-Syrian relations. These ties are based on the firm foundations included in the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed by the two countries. They were further enhanced by the agreements reached during the summit talks held by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and other Soviet leaders in Moscow in April. These summit talks contributed a great deal to bolstering these relations.

The joint Soviet-Syrian spaceflight was a manifestation of the fruitful nature of the bilateral relations binding the two countries.

The joint communique issued on the visit of the People's Assembly delegation headed by [Assembly Speaker] Mahmud al-Zu'bi to the Soviet Union expressed the grave concern of both Syria and the Soviet Union over the continuing tension in the Middle East. Both countries affirmed their rejection of the policies which seek partial and separate deals. These include the Camp David agreement and its results. The two sides believe that a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East is only achievable with an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

The joint communique referred to the importance of unifying and rallying the Arabs' capabilities and energies in the struggle to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. This would enable them to confront the aggressive imperialist-Zionist schemes. The Syrian Arab and Soviet sides expressed their grave concern over the dangerous escalation of tension in the Arab Gulf. They also condemned the naval buildup of U.S. and other Western fleets on the pretext of securing freedom of navigation. They stressed the need to resolve problems in the region through peaceful means.

For its part, the Soviet Union supported the initiative launched by the Syrian Arab Republic. This initiative calls for convening a UN-sponsored international conference to define the meaning of terrorism. It also calls for distinguishing between terrorism and legitimate, popular liberation struggles. The Soviet and Syrian parliamentarians expressed their solidarity with the Lebanese peoples' struggle. They were especially in solidarity with the nationalist and progressive forces for the sake of liberating their land from the Israeli occupation. The two sides stressed the need to achieve a national Lebanese accord to safeguard Lebanon's unity, its independence, its sovereignty, and its territorial integrity.

The Soviet side gave the Syrian delegation a detailed explanation of the wide-ranging Soviet initiatives. The implementation of these initiatives would guarantee a better future for mankind in the absence of nuclear weapons. Through these initiatives, peace, equitable cooperation, and nonviolence would prevail. The Syrian Arab People's Assembly delegation highly valued constructive Soviet foreign policy. The Syrian delegation also highly valued its tangible steps which seek to drastically purify international atmospheres. The delegation also highly appreciated the Soviet Union's principled stand in support of the struggles waged by Arab states and all other peoples to safeguard their legitimate interests. Concluding, the two sides reiterated their mutual eagerness to promote bilateral relations and contacts.

Information Minister Leaves for Tunis Meetings

JN261555 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh left Damascus for Tunis today. He is leading the Syrian delegation to the meetings of the Arab Information Ministers' Council to begin at the Arab League headquarters tomorrow. He was seen off at Damascus Airport by the heads of the information departments and a number of officials from the Information Ministry.

Najib Delivers Speech Marking Air Force Anniversary
LD262358 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1630 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and supreme commander of the DRA Armed Forces, today took part in a glorious ceremony marking the anniversary of the founding of the DRA Air Force [words indistinct] held in the headquarters of the Air Force and Air Defense Force. Comrade Najib delivered a speech at this glorious ceremony.

[Begin Najib recording] Guests and dear friends; generals of the homeland, esteemed Gol Bahar Khan, esteemed Abdul Muhammad Khan, esteemed Muhammad Akbar Khan; esteemed Colonel Qadir Khan; pioneers; lecturers; and proud senior air personnel of the country. I sincerely welcome your presence at this glorious session held on the occasion to mark the founding anniversary, a national historic festival marked by the country's air personnel.

Esteemed comrades, dear fellow fighters and friends, brave and courageous pilots. Today we mark for the first time in the history of our country the anniversary of the DRA Air Force.

At today's session it was pointed out that the selection of this day to express appreciation to our pilots was not an accidental: On this very day in 1304 [1925-26], four Soviet aircraft landed in Afghanistan and from that day, 62 years ago, the epic-making and honorable history of Afghanistan's Air Force began. Today we not only offer respect to history, but we express appreciation for our Air Force, whose role in the defense of the 1 April Revolution is formidable and notable. We praise those courageous pilots who have been making heroic flights and displaying great merit in the struggle against the enemies of the beloved homeland.

Comrades. You know that some time ago the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and the DRA Council of Ministers issued a special resolution concerning extra privileges for personnel, engineers, and technicians of the DRA Air Force. This measure is another vivid example of the constant care by the party and people for the country's armed forces, particularly the Air Force. We have no doubt that all men, NCO's, and officers, including Air Force personnel, will respond with further courage and bravery and will defend the gains of the revolution. They will decisively implement the policy of national reconciliation. Our proud Air Force, our men, and NCO's, especially air personnel and technicians, have been confronting great difficulties.

Concerning the best men of the Air Force, we should mention the brave soldiers and courageous officers of the heroic 377th helicopter regiment, including Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Asef; Colonel Muhammad Murad; Captain Muhammad Sarwar, Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Abdul Wahab, Colonel Zalmay, and other comrades.

Comrades. There are many experienced, courageous, and brave personnel in our proud Air Force. They heroically discharge duties in all of their duties. [passage omitted mentioning the names of other brave officers] We express gratitude to you for your daily combat heroism.

Dear comrades. In order to mark the anniversary of the DRA Air Force we send endless praise to the pure souls of those Air Force personnel who were martyred in fighting the enemy. We express our respect and honor the eternal memory of our comrades, such as Colonel Bahar, Colonel Sultan 'Ali, Lieutenant Colonel Temur Shah, Senior Captain Muhammad Yasin, Senior Captain Muhammad Asef, Lieutenant Colonel Abdurrahim, Major Muhammad Sho'ib, Major Abdullah, Colonel Ismatullah, Major Mahmud Shah, Major Muhammad Zahir, Lieutenant Gol Baz, Lieutenant Khalid, Major Kamaluddin, Captain Muhammad Asman, and the rest of our heroes who were martyred for the sake of the homeland. Let the blood of the courageous and heroes [words indistinct] this blood would not be eliminated and open the way toward freedom, democracy, social progress, (?work), and prosperity of toiling human beings. The people, revolution, and homeland do not bow before the cowardly and timid but bow before the heroes of history. Let the proud history of our fathers and ancestors be written with golden words with the names of these heroes who have sacrificed their lives.

I ask you to observe 1 minute of silence in honor of the pure souls of the martyrs of the Air Force.

Esteemed comrades and dear friends. When we talk about the history of our proud and heroic Air Force and recall with appreciation the worthy services of its personnel, we always recall our great northern neighbor and the friendly and fraternal Soviet people, because the Soviet Union has put at the disposal of the DRA Air Force personnel all modern combat techniques, that is to say aircraft, helicopters, and most other technical equipment.

You military personnel know very well [words indistinct]. In the 9 years since the 1 April Revolution over 100 Afghan pilots have graduated from Soviet air academies. During this period over 400 Air Force personnel have taken refresher courses. Hundreds of Soviet air advisers are working indefatigably and sympathetically at the side of our pilots, engineers, and technicians. The internationalist personnel of the limited units of the Soviet Union are also at our side, and our pilots are courageously defending the gains of the 1 April Revolution. Our people will never forget the formidable assistance of the Soviet Union. We will consolidate even more our friendship and fraternity with the great people of the Soviet Union and the combat fraternity between the two Armies and between the Air Forces of the two countries.

Comrades. You know that today the PDPA is preparing for its second nationwide conference that will assess the results of the national reconciliation policy and will determine our immediate and future duties. In this respect, I will address in particular the party members in the Air Force who will attend your party conference. Today I only want to point out that the PDPA's authority outside the country and at the international level is being enhanced.

The policy of national reconciliation proclaimed by the PDPA each day brings new supporters to our side. All efforts by internal and external enemies are doomed to total failure; they will not prevent the implementation of this policy. The national reconcili-

ation policy will be successful. No one should have any doubt or suspicions in this respect.

Dear comrades. On behalf of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council, and the Council of Ministers, I warmly congratulate the personnel of our proud Air Force on its anniversary. I wish all of you new and formidable victories in defending the gains of the 1 April Revolution and implementing the national reconciliation policy.

Long live our brave and courageous Air Force! Long live the DRA Air Force, the confident shield of our revolutionary gains. Forward to complete victory over internal and external enemies and an early achievement of peace and calmness in the historic homeland, beloved Afghanistan! We will succeed. Thank you. [end recording]

Najib Greets GDR's Honecker on Birthday

LD261251 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0435 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Kabul, August 25, *Bakhtar* — Najib, general secretary of the PDPA CC, sent a congratulatory message to Berlin on the occasion of 75th birth anniversary of Erich Honecker, general secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and chairman of the State Council of the German Democratic Republic.

The message says in part that the party, state, and working people of Afghanistan praise the great victories achieved by the brotherly people of the GDR under the leadership of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and your guidance as a prominent figure of international communist and working movement.

The message says that the people of the GDR with the implementation of the resolutions and decisions of the 11th party congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany will reach high levels of development.

AFP: Mujahidin Shell Qandahar Military Base

BK261526 Hong Kong AFP in English
1519 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 26 (AFP) — Afghan guerrillas shelled a government military base for five straight hours north of Qandahar, killing doens of troops and blowing up fuel and supplies, a source close to the guerrillas said Wednesday.

Mujahidin canon fire pounded the Dasht-e-Sufi base and adjoining Soviet installations Sunday three kilometres (two miles) north of Qandahar, the country's second largest city, the source said in Quetta, southwest Pakistan.

The base's ammunition depot, fuel and food supplies were destroyed, as were several armoured vehicles and long-range weapons, the sources said, quoting government deserters.

Neighbouring Soviet installations were also hit but the damage was unknown.

The source said the explosion in the ammunition dump sent shells flying in all directions, killing six people in the nearby village of Lue Wala.

The Mujahidin are fighting Afghan troops backed by an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops supporting the communist government in Kabul.

Paper Exposes U.S. CENTCOM Bases in Pakistan

BK251400 Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali 17 Aug 87 p 4

[Editorial: "CENTCOM Air Base in Pakistan"]

[Text] A number of airfields are being built in Pakistan for the use of the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM). This was stated by the extremely conservative Heritage Foundation in a report after an analysis of the facts it gathered in its capacity as a think tank [preceding term published in English] and a data collecting organization. The authenticity of this report can therefore be said to be beyond any doubt.

After the Iranian bases slipped out of U.S. hands, the United States drew up a plan to use Pakistan as its alternate military monitoring base. The U.S. objective was successful only because of the existence of military rule in Pakistan.

The Pakistani Armed Forces were looking for any opportunity to revive themselves first, from the loss of the eastern wing [Bangladesh] and, then from the defeatist mentality and the jolt of demoralizing effects noticed among the soldiers due to the surrender of a section of armed forces personnel in the former East Pakistan. The overthrow of the shah of Iran presented that opportunity to Pakistan.

The United States elected Pakistan as its dependable ally in the drive to strengthen its presence in the Middle East and the oil-rich Gulf region and for getting new military bases and logistic facilities in the littoral states, thereby bridging the vacuum caused by Iran. Taking advantage of the territorial dispute with Ethiopia in the Horn of Africa, the United States agreed to support Somalia with the motive of winning it over. Behind this U.S. move lie contributions by the kingly states in the Middle East. Despite continuous denial of the reports by the Pakistani Government on the question of setting up U.S. military bases in that country, a U.S. organization has exposed the secret.

Even when reports of Pakistan making a nuclear bomb were appearing over a long period of time, the United States showed leniency in its policy and continued arming Pakistan to the teeth. It also signed an agreement to supply AWACS to Pakistan. Although the United States has tried to prove that the Afghan problem was the cause for this supply, it is not very difficult to understand that it was only a lame excuse.

The United States built up its Rapid Deployment Force in the Gulf region much before the Afghan problem and the fall of shah of Iran from power. The United States tried to increase its military presence on the subcontinent after Kissinger's failure in the diplomatic field in 1971. The later outcome is the formation of CENTCOM which, in fact, replaces CENTO. Although both have some inherent differences, their purpose and objective remained the same and that is to follow a policy of providing aid to the autocratic rulers existing in the countries of this region for selfish U.S. interests.

The inclusion of Pakistan once again (after CENTO) into the U.S. military pact in the Gulf region not only expands the period of military rule on the people of Pakistan, but also gives the arms race on the subcontinent a fresh start.

With the divulgance of the Iran-contra scandal, the weaknesses of the U.S. warmongers have come to light and, therefore, speedy attempts were made to bring Pakistan into the realm of the U.S. military bases. Simultaneously, a vigorous drive is also being made to weaken the Nonaligned Movement in this region.

Taking advantage of the Tamil rebellion in Sri Lanka, attempts were made to start disputes among the SAARC member nations, especially when the fear of deterioration in relations between Sri Lanka and India was evident due to dropping of relief materials into Tamil-dominated Jaffna by Indian planes. When an adverse reaction to this step was building up in other SAARC countries, it was possible to avert the crisis by implementing the SAARC objectives. Now with the joint efforts of Sri Lanka and India for finding a peaceful solution to the Tamil problem, the conspiracy of turning Sri Lanka into a military base has been foiled.

Pakistan's acceptance of the role of policeman in safeguarding U.S. interests in the Gulf region and, going further, of taking the initiative to set up CENTCOM bases on its soil, cannot but increase the concern of the region's peaceloving people. The active participation of Pakistan in increasing U.S. military might around the littoral states in the Indian Ocean acts as a threat to peace and political stability in the region. A direct or indirect link with CENTCOM is a big conspiracy against the democratic forces in the African, Asian, and Middle Eastern nations.

By giving Pakistan an important role in the field of military cooperation in the Islamic world, CENTCOM will achieve its objectives behind the veil of Islamic brotherhood and it will not bring any benefit to Islamic nations.

Further Reportage on Bofors Company Dealings

Documents Made Public

BK270455 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] In an unprecedented move, the government last night made public its correspondence with the Bofors Company and the Swedish Government regarding the gun deal controversy. Most of the documents are confidential. The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, placed the documents on the table of the Lok Sabha during his reply to a 5 and a 1/2 hour special debate on the issue. Mr Pant said the correspondence will enable the parliament, indeed the whole nation, to judge if it is the government or the opposition which is more keen on ferreting out full facts relating to the deal. He regretted the opposition boycott of the parliamentary committee set up for the purpose calling it a retrograde step. Their decision underlines what he called their 1-point program of drawing political advantage of sorts from the issue. He said they have neither the intention nor the courage to face the final outcome of the inquiry. Mr Pant disclosed that it was at the government's persistence that the Stockholm chief district prosecutor decided to investigate the payments in the Bofors deal.

In a note verbale last Friday, the Swedish Government intimated to India that the prosecutor, Mr Lars Ringberg, had decided to intitiate an investigation into the matter.

All India Radio's parliamentary correspondent reports that about 30 documents from April onwards were made public. All of them pertained to government's persistent inquiries about facts, circumstances, and details relating to allegations of huge payments to win the gun deal. In reply to queries from the Government of India, Bofors has maintained that no payments have been made to any Indian citizen or company to win the gun deal. It said after the prime minister's insistence that there should be no middlemen, the company had to make payments to wind up earlier arrangements and to compensate for loss of profit. It said the payments were in accordance with the contract for the reimbursement of consultancy services within the areas of marketing and counterpurchasing to a Swiss company.

In their telex of 22 April, Bofors denied having made any payments to the Hindujas to help it win the contract. However, in its telex of 24 April, Bofors revealed that it had agreed to pay a firm, (Anatronic General), owned by Mr (Win Chadda), 1 lakh Swedish kronas a month for what they called administrative service to their personnel in India. The payment was made every month from January 1986 through an Indian bank. In all it paid 12 lakh kronas to Mr (Chadda) during 1986.

On 16 June the Government of India again wrote to Bofors seeking facts emerging out of the report of the Swedish National Audit Bureau. Bofors said the payments made had not influenced the price of the contract. It said the bureau report was based on incomplete information and was not as accurate as it could have been. The latest was written by the defense secretary last Monday [24 August] in which Bofors has been asked to divulge of the names of the parties involved in the payments.

Mr Pant repeatedly stressed that the government has nothing whatsoever to hide in the matter. From the very first day, I have been interested in ascertaining the truth, he said. The government wishes that the parliamentary committee sets about its task urgently so that the controversy is put at rest within the shortest possible time. We cannot allow the matter to be exploited indefinitely, least of all on the basis of incomplete or misrepresented facts. The fallacious positions taken by the opposition in recent months will be systematically exposed. He also reaffirmed that the government has no intention of protecting any wrongdoer.

Referring to the prime minister's statement in the house that neither he nor any of his family members received any consideration in the Bofors deal, Mr Pant described it as an act of respect toward parliament, an act of courage, and an act of a man who has nothing to hide. Mr Pant regretted that without an iota of evidence the opposition is trying to tarnish the image of the prime minister and the ruling party. The minister said that this amounts to witch hunting.

The special discussion was initiated by Mr Madhu Danadavate, Janata. He argued that it was not against the dignity of the house to seek the help of a foreign agency to investigate such issues. He cited several instances where the government in the past had used foreign agencies for purposes of investigation. To this point, Mr Pant said that sovereign governments communicate only with each other and not with subordinate agencies. How would the house react, he asked, if Swedish MP's were to approach the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] directly for investigating a matter that is of interest to them.

The chairman of the Nobel Industries, the parent company of Bofors, Mr Lars Eric Sunholm, has said that Bofors paid winding up fees to agents for services rendered after they complied with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's demand that there should be no middleman in the gun deal. Mr Sunholm said the company is bound by an agreement and it cost them money to free themselves from it. So they had to pay money to sever it.

In an interview with PTI Mr Sunholm denied having told the Swedish radio that bribes could have figured in the Bofors-India order.

Chairman of Committee Named

BK270912 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] The Lok Sabha speaker, Mr Balram Jakhar, has appointed Mr B. Shankaranand [former water resources minister] as the chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee which will inquire into the Bofors gun deal.

The committee has 20 members from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha. The parties represented at the committee include the Congress-I, the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam], the National Conference, the Muslim League, and the Sikkim Sangram Parishad. This information was given in the Lok Sabha bulletin issued today. Most of the opposition parties are boycotting the committee.

Parliament Passes Antiterrorism Bills 26 Aug
BK261605 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Parliament has passed the National Security Amendment Bill and the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention Bill. The two bills, which are to replace the presidential ordinance promulgated earlier, were approved by the Rajya Sabha today. The Lok Sabha has already passed the bills.

The minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, who piloted the bills, asserted that the government is all in favor of a new political initiative, but our first job is to break the back of terrorism. The Punjab and Chandigarh administrations have to be provided with tools to deal with the extraordinary situation, and these bills are precisely aimed at that. He said the recent developments in Punjab has added a new dimension and the moderates have been forced to retreat. The antiterrorist bill, which no doubt provides some extraordinary provisions, is to meet the extraordinary situation that exists. He also justified the provision that empowers the central government to take up investigations of crime and said the Constitution clearly says that the Center may step in whenever necessary.

'Hard-Core Terrorist' Surrenders in Gurdaspur Area
BK261607 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] In Punjab, a hard-core terrorist, Nirender Singh, alias Nindi, has surrendered to the Border Security Force at Qadian in Gurdaspur District. Disclosing this in Chandigarh today, the state police chief, Mr J.f. Ribeiro, said that Nindi, belonging to the Mandiala village under Shrihargobindpur police station, was involved in a number of terrorist activities in the district. Mr Ribeiro said that about half a dozen terrorists have recently surrendered to the Amritsar police. He said full protection will be provided to those who voluntarily surrender to the police, as well as to their relations.

'Dreaded Terrorist' Killed in Amritsar 27 Aug
BK270437 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] In Punjab, the main culprit responsible for the killing of seven persons in Mustafapur in Jullundur District, Gurmeet Singh Chehru, has been killed in an encounter with the police and a CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] party near (Bass) in Amritsar District early this morning.

The state police chief, Mr Ribeiro, told our correspondent that Gurmeet Singh was also responsible for a number of terrorist activities in Jullundur and Gurdaspur districts. The encounter took place when the police and the CRPF party was fired upon from a garden in that area.

Soviet Union To Supply 'Latest' Computers
BK270917 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] The Soviet Union has assured India of providing the latest electronic computers produced in that country. These are in the medium and large range. The medium scale systems are used for educational purposes and the large ones in areas like oil exploration. The Rajya Sabha was informed today that the government is exploring the possibility of manufacturing supercomputers within the country as well as importing these from America.

Minister Notes Success in Defense Production
BK231050 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, today laid the foundation stone for the second unit of Bharat Dynamics at (Banaru) village in the Medak District of Andhra Pradesh. The 176 crore rupee unit being set up with modern technology will manufacture antitank missiles.

Mr Pant said the country has achieved self-reliance in defense production. It is now in a position to manufacture most modern defense equipment.

First Combat Vehicle Finished
BK231650 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Excerpt] The country's first indigenously built infantry combat vehicle rolled out of the ordnance factory near Shankarapalli in Medak district of Andhra Pradesh today. The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, handed over the vehicle — Sarath — to the chief of the army staff, General K. Sunderji. The vehicle has been built with Soviet collaboration. It has a long range and can cross rivers without difficulty.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Pant described the manufacture of the vehicle as a culmination of years of planning and effort.

The minister of state for defense, Mr Shiv Raj Patil, said more than 60 percent of the equipment required by the three services is being produced indigenously. [passage omitted]

Hijaz Hizballah Threaten U.S. Bases, Saudi Palaces

LD262159 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
2030 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] The Hizballah of the Hijaz has issued a statement on the presence of U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf, saying that if the United States does not get out of Arabian territory, the U.S. bases and the Al Sa'ud palaces will be turned into joint graves. The statement says: Simultaneous with the presence of U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf aimed at encircling the Islamic revolution, the corrupt Al Sa'ud regime, which is among the experienced servers of colonialism, has also placed all military and other facilities of the Hijaz at the disposal of the forces of world arrogance.

Reference has been made in this statement to the explosion that occurred at the gas supply installations of the U.S.-Saudi Aramco Company, and to the operations of the brave Hijazi youth in setting fire to the Zahran oil regions. The statement adds: In a similar operation a state establishment in Al-Dammam city was also burned out.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Arab League Session

LD271155 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Following media reports on the outcome of the Arab League session in Tunisia, a Foreign Ministry spokesman today, describing the session as a failure, stated: Under U.S. pressure and with the circus tour staged by the house of Al Sa'ud, reactionary Arab regimes tried very hard to adopt a firm position against the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, realism and independence exercised by a number of Arab states weakened and disrupted that conspiracy.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not submit to any pressure or imposition, and will continue the war until the Saddam regime has been punished and toppled. The Foreign Ministry spokesman stated: We have clearly stated our position on the Security Council resolution. These last-ditch efforts on the part of some reactionary governments will not divert us from our determination to eliminate the factor of tension in the region and to achieve the final victory in the war.

He continued: The regime ruling over Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] raises and whips up such issues to justify the horrific massacre of the pilgrims to the house of God and to divert Muslim opinion from that. However, the world's Muslims have become increasingly aware of their anti-Islamic edifice. The rulers of Hijaz will gain nothing from these strategems.

In conclusion, the Foreign Ministry spokesman noted the fact that the presence of foreign powers in the Persian Gulf has exacerbated the atmosphere of tension and increased the risk of military confrontation in the region. He condemned measures taken by Kuwait and some other reactionary governments in inviting the United States and foreign powers and in providing facilities for their fleets. Stating that the Muslim Iranian nation will confront and remain steadfast against these plots, the Foreign Ministry spokesman described such actions as contrary to the interests of the Arabs and Islamic ummah.

Defense Minister Comments on Persian Gulf

NC270930 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Speaking on "Government Week," Brigadier General Jalali, our defense minister, stated in an interview with IRNA: The Islamic Republic of Iran continues to patiently monitor developments in the Persian Gulf front from a position of strength. It will defend its positions whenever necessary. He also emphasized: We have repeatedly announced that we do not seek tension nor the escalation of the war. However, if the world's arrogant powers and the region's reactionary countries want to create tension, we are ready to undertake any kind of retaliation.

He explained: By creating tension in the Persian Gulf, world arrogance and its pawn, Saddam, want to turn the Islamic Republic's attention from the war fronts on land to the sea. However, we are not ignorant of this and believe that accounts with Saddam should be settled on the fronts, as the crushing answer we gave to the Saddamists on the Maymak front where they suffered heavy damages.

Defense Minister Brigadier General Jalali recalled: The brothers in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps powerfully attacked the enemy in northern Iraq, and occupied the [name indistinct] and Dopazah Heights. Now they have strengthened their positions and are defending them powerfully.

He explained: Strong morale and faith in gaining our rights from the oppressors, and our selflessness toward this ideal, are our superior weapons in the war and in the confrontation with the enemy's plots in the Persian Gulf.

In conclusion, the defense minister emphasized: We are watching developments in the Persian Gulf. We will deliver a crushing blow if any power creates tension in the region.

Khamene'i Chairs Cabinet Session on Mecca

LD261419 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Excerpt] The cabinet held a session this morning chaired by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i in the presence of Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi and Karrubi, the imam's representative and the supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims. During this session, information and reports related to the bloody tragedy in Mecca and the motives of the United States and the usurping Al Sa'ud family in committing this horrific crime were discussed, views were exchanged, and Iranian Government's policy on this subject was specified.

At the beginning of this session, President Khamene'i — referring to the start of Muharram [New Islamic year 1408] and its coincidence with Government Week, and the deep meaning that this month and this week has left in our revolutionary society — addressing the cabinet members, said: This coincidence reminds

all employees of the Islamic Republic and particularly you, in charge of the state executive system, of the duties that you should shoulder as the heirs of those dear ones who gave their lives to justice to pave the way for the revolution.

The president added: During this session we are going to discuss Bloody Friday in Mecca, which itself was another 'Ashura and Muharram [the month of Muharram is significant among Shi'ite Muslims because Imam Husayn was killed on the 10th day named 'Ashura]. On this same occasion and this coincidence, our policy in the face of this horrific crime and our revenge against its perpetrators are clear and we are dutybound to adopt a suitable and all-embracing approach.

Also during this session, the U.S. Government's reaction regarding the confusing blows it has received from the Islamic Republic and the fear of the Saudi rulers and other reactionaries in the face of the increasing welcome shown by world Muslims toward the original Islam — which has been demonstrated in recent years and particularly this year during the Hajj rituals in Mecca and Medina — were pointed out as the main factors behind their decision to plot such a horrific crime. The Cabinet also paid tribute to the pilgrims from the Muslim states of Afghanistan, Lebanon, Bahrain, Kuwait, Turkey, and particularly Palestine, who hastened to assist the beaten and battered pilgrims.

In this session, the cabinet also approved the payment of a noncash subsidy equivalent to 3,000 rials per month to invalid pensioners or their widows as extra assistance to them. The cabinet also ratified a bill on insuring the state employees against accidents. [passage omitted]

Musavi Views Relations With Syria, UN Resolution

LD261724 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 26, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here Tuesday that presence of the U.S. in the region is a scheme for preventing Iran's victory in the Iraqi-imposed war.

The prime minister, speaking at a press conference with domestic and foreign reporters, stressed that U.S. efforts to deviate Iranian people from the path they were treading on in this respect, were doomed to fail. He said Iran would pay any cost in order to live free and maintain independence.

On ties with Syria, Musavi said that Iran and Syria enjoy friendly relations, adding that Syria realised Iran's stand in the imposed war. Another positive measure by Syria was that it prevented misrepresentation of the war as one between Arabs and non-Arabs, Musavi added. The policies of Syria and Libya foiled this conspiracy, he said.

Elsewhere Prime Minister Musavi rejected any compromise on the Iraqi imposed war and said that the U.S. intended to impose an ignominous peace on Iran in collaboration with Arab reactionaries.

"We will never agree to such a peace. Even a pyschological war cannot make us accept a compromise to the benefit of the U.S.," Musavi said.

On arms embargo upon Iran as recommended in resolution 598 of the Security Council, the prime minister stressed such an embargo would prove unsuccessful. The prime minister noted that because of problems in arms purchase Iran is employing all its potentials to manufacture most of its needed arms.

The world and the U.S. in particular should have realised by now that threats and economic siege could not prevent Iranians to tread in the path they had chosen to restore their legitimate rights, Musavi said.

Further referring to the resolution 598, the prime minister said that it contained more positive points compared to previous ones but, he added, still it was incomplete. For instance, he stressed, how could the resolution fail to refer to the Iraqi chemical bombardment of the Iranian city of Sardasht and condemn the perpetrator of this criminal act?

The resolution has failed to take a clear stand vis-avis this crime, but, the prime minister said that in talks with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Iran had shown interest in De Cuellar's personal initiatives.

On ties with Saudi Arabia, the prime minister said that following the massacre of hajj pilgrims in Mecca on July 31 Iran's relations with Saudi Arabia was seriously damaged, adding that the relations would never reach previous level.

No doubt, he said, the Mecca catastrophe created new issues between the two countries which would entail consequences for which Iran had made decisions, parts of which he added were to expose various dimensions of the crime to the world.

This measure by Iran, the prime minister said, would put true and revolutionary Islam versus Saudi petro-dollar Islam aimed at preserving U.S. interests.

Musavi added, parallel with Saudi support for the U.S. and Iraq, Iran would give a suitable response to Iraq in the fronts of the imposed war.

On the likelihood of a military confrontation with the U.S. in the Persian Gulf, the prime minister said that Iran would by no means retreat from any scene and would constantly adhere to the policy of blow for blow.

The prime minister said that to manage the imposed war in the fronts and to safeguard the Persian Gulf were inseparable issues, adding that Iran was exerting its utmost efforts to manage both.

On the Soviet stand towards Persian Gulf developments, the prime minister said Moscow had taken a more positive stand in the Persian Gulf comparing to that of the U.S. The Soviet stand that all foreign war ships should evacuate the Persan Gulf is confirmed by Iran, he said, stressing that this measure is necessary to eliminate tension in the region.

General Says Air Force Ready 'To Counter U.S. Plots'

LD261853 Tehran IRNA in English 1816 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Esfahan, Aug. 26, IRNA — Iran's Air Force is fully prepared to counter U.S. plots in the region, Air force Commander Brigadier General Mansur Sattari said here today. Sattari who is currently where on a visit said that Iranian planes in their routine reconnaissance flights encounter U.S. warplanes, but added that these encounters have not turned into a clash.

Hailing devotion of the Air Force personnel irrespective of their ranks the commander said the number of Iraqi warplanes shot down over the last two years of the imposed-war is equal to those downed since the outset of the war.

Referring to the sophisticated system of F-14 jets and their effective deployment by the Air Force in all defensive fields, Sattari said that owing to the courage of the Air Force personnel we are making the best use of these systems in the war efforts.

Operations of the F-14 jets is a great task which was efficiently fulfilled by the Iranian personnel said the commander adding "We have not yet domonstrated all capabilities of the Air Force".

Some 240 jet fighters were flown from different airports throughout the country in a recent maneuver, Sattari said noting that manufacture of spare parts as well as repairs of the planes have been planned and is under way, the result of which will be soon disclosed to the combatant Iranian nation.

Commentary on 'Ambiguity' of UK Reflagging Policy

LD261451 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1108 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

In continuation of the widespread support given by the British Government to Washington's aggressive plans and policies, there have been several reports recently on London's readiness to reflag Kuwaiti ships. These reports were at once wholeheartedly welcomed by the U.S. State Department. However, British authorities hurriedly tried to criticize Washington's approach in attributing this action to the British Government, stating that this declaration of readiness was not a new decision nor connected with the British Government.

A short time after these statements were made, the U.S. State Department confirmed in a statement what the British authorities had said and called Washington's previous approach the result of an incorrect analysis by the U.S. authorities.

It is interesting to note that, for some time before implementing the plan to protect Kuwaiti ships, the British Government tried to prevent any interpretations about the extent of its role supporting the plan concerning Kuwaiti ships.

However, a few days before the implementation of the said plan, the British ambassador in Kuwait in a news conference clearly declared his country's readiness to appraise requests from Persian Gulf littoral states — the Kuwaiti Government in particular — regarding flying the British flag on commercial vessels and oil tankers. Immediately after the declaration of this decision, the British authorities emphatically tried to explain that this decision was purely commercial and not related to the British Government.

Perhaps one can say that, from now on, on the basis of the coordination between the British Government and commercial sectors, the wishes of private companies — which are not affiliated with the Government — will be broadcast in official news conferences, without their private status being mentioned. Then, in accordance with existing policy, the authorities in Britain will determine whether the decision is a government or nongovernment decision.

In any case, all these strange games notwithstanding, the important point is that, after leasing ships to Kuwait or other Persian Gulf countries whenever it deems appropriate, the British Government can give them military protection and, if conditions change, terminate her military protection.

Thus, the British Government will not be legally bound to give military protection to ships belonging to commercial companies, or to ships belonging to countries under Britain's protection.

This would enable the British Government to make appropriate decisions in accordance with prevailing needs, without considering existing conditions and while avoiding internal clashes and factional opposition.

Moreover, the declaration of such a decision is, in fact, tantamount to accepting some of the problems and heavy expenses that face the Reagan administration in the matter of escorting Kuwaiti ships.

In any case, regardless of all the devious ploys intended to cover up the true aims of the British Government, assuredly none of this political subterfuge will be hidden from the sharp eyes of the ummah of Islam.

Khomeyni Receives Lebanese Hizballah, Others

LD261019 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Grand Ayatollah Araki this morning met and conferred with Imam Khomeyni. A group of Lebanese Hizballah officials and experts of the parent-teacher association from throughout the country, and a group of Islamic Revolution Guards from the committees and the corps also met the imam of the ummah at the Jamaran residence today.

During the meeting Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Tavassoli described the selfless sacrifices made by the Lebanese Hizballah in confrontation with the usurping Zionism and conveyed to them the imam's thanks and commendation.

At the end of the meeting, the imam of the ummah responded to the sentiments expressed by those present.

Further Reportage on Visit of PRC's Qi Huaiyuan

Meets With Musavi

LD262010 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 26 Aug 87

["Islamic Republic Firmly Stands Against U.S. Plots, Says Premier" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 26, IRNA — The U.S. military intervention in the Persian Gulf, massacre of Hajj pilgrims in Mecca by regime ruling Hijaz and Kuwaiti mischiefs in the region are not separate issues and are part of the same plot, said Premier Husayn Musavi here Wednesday.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has firmly stood against the U.S. despite all pressures and will continue do so in future, emphasised the prime minister.

Musavi made the remarks in a meeting with the visiting Chinese Special Envoy, Qi Huaiyuan, lauding China's stance vis-a-vis regional and international developments.

Pointing to the historical past shared by the two countries the premier expressed satisfaction with the expanding Tehran-Beijing relations.

The Chinese official in reply announced his country's eagerness to expand relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mentioning the mounting tension in the Persian Gulf, Qi Huaiyuan said that China opposes superpower interference in the Persian Gulf. China believes that superpower presence in the region will fuel tension, he added.

He stressed that no positive act can be accomplished in the Persian Gulf under pressure imposed by superpowers.

The Chinese envoy also expressed concern over the bloody massacre of Hajj pilgrims in Mecca on July 31 and lauded Iran for its self-control towards the issue.

Qi Huaiyuan who is China's deputy foreign minister for political affairs arrived here Monday night at the head of a delegation.

Departs Tehran 26 Aug

LD270835 Tehran IRNA in English 0825 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 27,IRNA — Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Qi Huaiyuan, left Tehran Wednesday night after talks with Iranian officials. The Chinese official described his talks with Iranian authorities including Majlis speaker, prime minister and foreign minister as "productive."

In these meetings, Qi told IRNA, the Iranian officials were informed of China's interest in further expanding and strengthening bilateral relations with Iran. Qi also informed the Iranian authorities of importance that China attached to security and peace in the Persian Gulf.

The two-day visit and talks, he added, further strengthened mutual friendship and understanding.

Va'ezi Meets With Nicaragua's D'Escoto in Managua

LD262231 Tehran IRNA in English 1708 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 26, IRNA — Iran is seeking a peace which guarantees stability and not one which witneases any Iraqi aggression, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockman told Iranian Foreign Ministry Director General for Economic Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi in Managua Tuesday.

In the meeting, D'Escoto also said Iran is powerful and able to counter any aggression. He also condemned Iraqi use of chemical weapons against Iran as well as bombardment of Iranian residential areas.

On the Mecca carnage, D'Escoto said that imperialists instigated the Saudi forces to kill Iranian hajj pilgrims in a bid to split regional countries. "God's house is an immune place," he added.

He also blamed weakness of the Security Council and the veto right excercised by big powers in the United Nations as obstacles hindering achievement of fair agreements.

In reply, Va'ezi explained the Islamic Republic policy on various different issues.

Sees Vice President Ramirez

LD262252 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 26, IRNA — The Iraq-Iran war is a separate issue from the Persian Gulf issue, said Nicaraguan Vice-President Sergio Ramirez in Managua Tuesday.

Speaking at a meeting with Iranian Foreign Ministry Director-General for Economic Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi, the Nicaraguan official said U.S. imperialism is faced with many difficulties because of the presence of its warships in the Persian Gulf.

There is no unanimity among Western allies concerning the Persian Gulf, Ramirez said, adding that the U.S. aggressive ventures will be foiled.

U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf threatens free navigation in the region, stressed the Nicaraguan vice-president, adding "the U.S. refuses to accept that it has lost its influence in the region."

Pointing to the strategic relations between Iran and Nicaragua, Ramirez said that Tehran-Managua ties are "very deep, sincere and brotherly", expressing hope to visit Iran once again.

In reply, Va'ezi briefed the Nicaraguan official on foreign powers' provocations in the Persian Gulf. He said also that the July 31 Mecca carnage preplanned by the U.S. and perpetrated by the Saudi regime is part of the aggressive schemes of the U.S. Government.

The Iranian official called on revolutionary nations to counter U.S. aggressive acts.

Larijani Meets Perez de Cuellar in New York

NC261058 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Deputy Foreign Minister Larijani met with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar at UN Headquarters yesterday.

3d Majlis Elections To Be Held in March 1988

LD270900 Tehran IRNA in English 0845 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Khorramabad, Lorestan, Prov, Aug. 27, IRNA — The third nationwide Majlis elections will be held next March, said Interior Minister, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, here Thursday.

The minister who is currently visiting the province said that candidates should register in February, he added.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Communique No 2,940

LD261700 Tehran IRNA in English 1646 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 26, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants shelled Iraqi troops concentration sites, positions and supply routes throughout the fronts Tuesday, killing or wounding a considerable number of enemy soldiers and setting ablaze vast parts of their fortifications.

Announcing the above Wednesday, the 2940th joint Staff communique said that Iranian long-rnage artillery fire inflicted heavy casualties and losses on Iraqi troops in the northwestern fronts yesterday. An Iraqi patrol convoy sustained several casualties and was forced to flee in Halaleh, western fronts, Tuesday when it came under heavy Iranian artillery fire.

Iranian forces opened fire on an Iraqi motorized column carrying ammunitions in Sardasht, northwestern fronts, yesterday, inflicting heavy losses on it.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces traded artillery fire with Iraqi troops in parts of the southern fronts Tuesday, killing a number of enemy soldiers and destroying 10 gun emplacements of theirs.

Iraqi supply operations and relocation activities of enemy artillery units in Maymak, Kani-Sheykh, Naft-e Shah and Sumar, all in the western fronts, were checked by Iranian artillery fire.

Heavy losses were inflicted on Iraq's Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah oil platforms in the northern tip of the Persian Gulf yesterday when shelled by Iranian naval forces.

Iran's navy gunboats intercepted and inspected six cargo ships in the Strait of Hormuz but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied they were not carrying cargo for Iraq, the communique concluded.

Kurdish Successes in Iraq

LD261110 Tehran IRNA in English 1013 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 26, IRNA — Iraqi Kurdish peshmergas set ablaze an Iraqi vehicle killing eight soldiers and seizing some munitions during an ambush attack on Chamchamal-Sangah road in Kirkuk Province.

Ramadan Headquarters, center of irregular warfare of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) further said that Muslim Kurdish peshmergas attacked two Iraqi bases around Zireh village, District of Surdash, capturing the bases and killing 19 soldiers stationed there.

Eight loader trucks and some light and semi-heavy arms were seized intact by Muslim peshmergas during the operations.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi enemy using a military column intended to attack residential areas of Kule village in Surdash but facing resistance of the people and Muslim Kurdish combatants, was forced to retreat leaving behind 14 dead and a large amount of munitions.

In another development, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan of Iraq (PUK) reported that 15 Iraqi agents surrendered to PUK peshmergas in three stages during the past four days.

Also, in clashes between Muslim Kurdish peshmergas and Iraqi forces in Darbandikhan [name as received] region of Iraq three Iraqi soldiers were wounded.

4 Killed, 40 Injured in Karachi Violence

BK261318 Hong Kong AFP in English
1309 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Karachi, Aug 26 (AFP) — At least four people were killed and 40 wounded in ethnic clashes in Karachi's eastern district Wednesday, hospital sources said.

The authorities imposed an indefinite curfew on the eastern district of the city following the clashes, officials said.

Pathan settlers from the north exchanged fire with local Urdu-speaking Muhajirs, leaving a trail of destruction in the Shah Faisal District, where some 50 shops were set on fire, eyewitnesses said.

Almost all the dead and injured had bullet wounds and at least three of the injured were on the critical list, hospital sources said.

The authorities clamped an indefinite curfew on the area as fighting between armed rival groups intensified and police were unable to cope, eyewitnesses said.

Wednesday's clash followed an earlier dispute over the hoisting of a flag of the Urdu-speaking population's Mujahir Qaumi Movement (MQM).

Four days of fighting earlier this month left at least 15 people dead and scores of other wounded.

Relations between the two communities have been strained for some time and more than 200 people have been killed in the Pakistani port city in Muhajir-Pathan clashes in the past two years.

Death Toll Reaches 9

BK261537 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] A press note issued by the district magistrate of Karachi East said that clashes occurred between two groups at three places over the hoisting of flag of a party at Shah Faisal Colony this morning. Both groups fired on and damaged each other's shops and houses.

The press note said that the two groups used firearms in which 45 people were wounded out of whom 9 succumbed to their injuries.

The police had to take necessary steps apart from using tear gas to control the situation. Several persons have also been arrested.

The press note added that curfew has been imposed in Shah Faisal Colony police station area.

The curfew restriction will be relaxed from 0700 to 0800 tomorrow morning.

The situation in other places of the district is normal.

1 Killed, 5 Hurt in Dera Ismail Khan Explosion

BK260630 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] A bomb exploded in Dera Ismail Khan this morning, injuring six people. One of the injured later died in hospital. The bomb was placed in a heap of garbage near a bus station. The injured were rushed to hospital where two of them were admitted, while others were allowed to go home after first aid treatment.

Government Advised Not To Acquiesce to U.S. Pressure

BK261025 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
19 Aug 87 p 4

[Article by Abbas Rashid: "Pakistan and the U.S.: More Pressure From an Old 'Ally' "]

[Text] Recent developments including the visit of Mr. Michael Armacost to Islamabad marks a critical juncture in the Pak-U.S. relationship. There are three areas in which U.S. policy makers seek Pakistan's acquiesence: (a) Afghanistan (b) Nuclear capability (c) The Gulf. The U.S., it appears, has no desire to see the Afghanistan issue settled in isolation. Unless the Soviet Union signals its willingness to offer the U.S. a package deal which includes concessions in the Middle East or by reference to the Strategic Defence Initiative, there will be pressure on Pakistan to continue stalling on the issue of a settlement.

Undoubtedly the Mujahidin groups have achieved remarkable results by using the Stingers against helicopter gunships and transport planes. The helicopter, particularly, which is the centrepiece of the kind of modern counter-insurgency warfare that the Soviets are engaged in has had its effectiveness dramatically reduced by the introduction of the U.S.-made Stingers and the British Blowpipes. A consequence of this development has been a rise in Soviet casualties as their forces now have to rely to a much greater extent on ground assaults. Pakistan has borne part of the cost in the shape of death and destruction through numerous bomb blasts in its urban centres.

The United States in any case is in a position to argue, that the Peshawar-based Mujahidin leaders are now winning the war against the Soviet occupation forces. Others, however, are convinced that it is a fluid situation with the temporary advantage in favour of the Mujahidin and hence the best time to strike a deal.

On the nuclear issue, U.S. pressure on Pakistan can be traced to at least as for back as Kissinger's warning when he threatened to make a horrible example of Mr. Bhutto, in 1976. Subsequently the U.S. forced France to renege on its offer of a nuclear reprocessing plant despite having entered into a contract with the government of Pakistan. More recently the former U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Deane Hinton took it upon himself to press Pakistan into signing the Non-proliferation Treaty unilaterally, a move which amounted to rejecting out-right the Pakistan government's position on the issue emphasising its willingness to do so but only on the basis of reciprocity with India. Mr. Hinton sought to delink Pakistan's nuclear policy from that of India's and to tie it up instead to the issue of U.S. aid to Pakistan.

The suspension of the U.S. aid flow to Pakistan under the new package for 105 days recommended by a U.S. Congressional Committee has to be seen as the logical next step following from Mr. Hinton's earlier warning.

Regardless of whether Pakistan agrees to sign the Non-proliferation Treaty, it is now unlikely that the U.S. will honour its aid commitment to Pakistan unless it is able to secure on site inspection privileges from the Pakistan government. Although Pakistan has adopted a firm public posture, nothing less, it appears, will satisfy the strong pro-Israel lobby within Congress which is, by now, entirely unwilling to go by the word of the President, Prime Minister or the Foreign Minister of Pakistan on this subject. For Pakistan, a Muslim state in South West Asia that Israel regards clearly as being within its ambit of concern, to possess the nuclear capability perceived as a serious threat. [sentence as published] Consequently for the pro-Israel lobby in the U.S. to prevent Pakistan from doing so is as much a high priority objective as securing a higher level of immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. At a time when U.S. presidential elections are round the corner, pressure from this quarter to make Pakistan scuttle the nuclear option once and for all is bound to make itself felt within the U.S. Administration.

This is not to argue that within the U.S. Congress and administration the other groups are enthusiastic about Pakistan's nuclear option. They have opposed a hard line on this issue because they regard it as a calaculated risk worth taking in order to ensure Pakistan's continued cooperation in what has arguably been the most successful covert U.S. foreign policy initiative since the Second World War. At a time when the U.S. administration is having a hard time keeping up with Gorbachev's imaginative diplomacy and is being outmanoeuvred on virtually every front, Afghanistan seems to them to have far from exhausted its potential as the Soviet Union's Achilles heel with the promise of causing tremors in Soviet Central Asia.

Pakistan's induction into the U.S. strategic design on the Persian Gulf followed the overthrow of the U.S. policeman for the area, the Shah of Iran in 1979. The Rapid Deployment Force, subsequently reconstituted into the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), became operational in 1983.

A critical development in this context was the reported construction of a number of new airstrips in Baluchistan. There was apprehension that for rapid access to the Gulf the U.S. was being given pre-positioning facilities on the coast which were being linked up with the hinterland through a network of airstrips.

More recently American naval warships have been calling at Karachi with increasing frequency. Earlier this year President Ziaul Haq in what was seen as a move not quite commensurate with the dignity of a head of state, paid a visit to the U.S. warship '*Kitty Hawk*' during the course of its port call at Karachi. Moreover General Crist, head of CENTCOM has visited Pakistan more than once, further reaffirming the U.S. policy objective of involving Pakistan into the CENTCOM framework.

The Iranians have expressed serious concern at the frequency of such port calls on a neighbouring state, supposedly neutral in the Iran-Iraq war, by warships belonging to a hostile superpower.

Apparently the Pakistan government is reluctant to provide the U.S. with the kind of active support that can be interpreted by Iran as unfriendly. Domestic pressure in Pakistan against potentially anti-Iran moves, is also a major consideration.

There remains, however, the very real danger of the U.S. government's gradualist approach in terms of increasing and upgrading its naval presence off Pakistan's shores, eventually culminating in Pakistan playing the kind of role in the U.S. Gulf strategy that the latter wants it to perform.

For Pakistan to give in on any one of the three areas, i.e., Afghanistan, nuclear capability and the Gulf, on which it is being pressurised by the United States would be disastrous. The havoc caused in our major urban centres over the last few months should have been sufficient to bring home to the meanest intelligence the extent to which we are exposed and vulnerable.

It is ironic however, with respect to the nuclear issue, which seems to have been at the top of Mr. Armacost's priority list, that a large number of this country's citizens may themselves be of the view that amidst widespread poverty, hunger and disease going nuclear is not the first priority. Yet, there is today wide support for the bomb precisely because the United States in brazen affront to this country's sovereignty has consistently put pressure on Pakistan to desist from such a course.

Sailor Who Struck Gandhi Further Detained
BK261525 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1502 GMT 26 Aug 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 26 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Vijayamuni Vijitha Rohana de Silva (22) the Sri Lankan sailor who allegedly assaulted Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi with a rifle butt was today detained for a further month by a Colombo magistrate.

Detectives told acting Colombo Fort Magistrate Walter Jayewardene that they were probing into the sailor's links with a subversive political group.

Mr Gandhi was allegedly hit on July 30 by the naval rating, while reviewing a guard of honour at the end of a 24-hour visit to Colombo, during which he signed a peace accord with President Junius Jayewardene to end Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict.

Reward Offered for Information on 18 Aug Attack
BK270933 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0814 GMT 27 Aug 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerpts] Colombo, Aug 27 (*Lanka Puwath*) — The Inspector General of Police Cyril Herat this afternoon announced a reward of rupees one million (Rs 01 million Sri Lankan) for any information that would lead to the apprehension of any person or persons concerned in the August 18 (1987) assassination attempt on President Jayewardene, Prime Minister Premadasa and other members of the Government Parliamentary Group.

A press release isssued by the Information Department also states that the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) wishes to interview parliament employee Mudiyansalae Ajith Kumara of Ganemulla, about 30 kilometers north of Colombo in connection with the attack.

Ajith Kumara has been missing since the grenade attack on August 18.

Police sources told *Lanka Puwath* that Ajith Kumara was suspected of being deeply involved in the assassination attempt.

Investigations point to him as being the person or one of the persons who lobbed two grenades at the Government Parliamentary Group meeting. [passage omitted]

Police sources say the suspect was a member of the proscibed political group of subversives, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna.

When detectives called at Ajith Kumara's home they found the suspect and his wife had disappeared.

Official in Charge of VIP Security Appointed
BK261419 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1338 GMT 26 Aug 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 26 (*Lanka Puwath*) — For the first time in Sri Lanka, a deputy inspector general of police (DIG) has been specially appointed to be in charge of security.

Director of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) A.S. Seneviratne was today appointed as D.I.G. (Security), police told *Lanka Puwath*.

Mr Seneviratne is being placed in charge of about 500 personnel assigned to the President's Security Division, Prime Minister's Security Division and the Ministerial Security Division.

Police said the new appointment follows the August 18 assassination attempt on President Jayewardene and the members of the government parliamentary group in which District Minister Keerthi Abeywickreme was killed, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, seriously wounded and several other ministers and members of Parliament were also wounded by two exploding hand grenades lobbed into the meeting in committee room 1 in Parliament.

A new D.I.G. for southern range G.D. Kottakadeniya was also appointed today. He succeeds D.I.G. Jim Bandaranayake who has gone on leave prior to retirement.

Meanwhile, detectives probing last week's bomb explosions in Parliament are looking for a minor employee who has disappeared since the day after the explosion. The CID has visited his home in Gampaha but has not been able to trace him.

Parliament sources confirmed that the man, a sweeper attached to the housekeeping department, had been present at work on the day of the incident buy thereafter had not repoted for work.

Investigators are also probing whether the suspect, a graduate and married, was involved in JVP activities.

The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) in its new bulletin this evening announced that the CID is questioning five persons, four of whom are employees of Parliament and the other an outsider.

Prime Minister Denies Giving Newspaper Interview
BK251127 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1117 GMT 25 Aug 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 25 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa today categorically denied an All India Radio news bulletin broadcast last night which extensively quoted from an interview purported to have been given by him to the "*Khaleej Times*". The prime minister has said that no such interview was given by him.

The prime minister's office also states another false news item appeared on the front page of the Indian newspaper "*News Today*" of Sunday (August 23) which attributed certain statements made by the leader of the opposition of the Sri Lankan Parliament, to the prime minister.

The following statement was issued this afternoon by the secretary to the prime minister.

Inquiries are being made by the media with regard to the authenticity and the accuracy of an interview purported to have been given by Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa, prime minister of Sri Lanka, to "*Khaleej Times*" on the subject of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement. It is understood that this so-called interview had been quoted extensively by All India Radio in its news bulletins last night.

The prime minister categorically denies having given any such interview whatsoever to "*Khaleej Times*". It should have been the responsibility of any reputed media authority when borrowing from other sources to have re-checked the authenticity and the accuracy of such news reports before quoting same.

The attention of this office has been drawn to another false news item appearing in the front page of the Indian newspaper "*News Today*" of Sunday, 23rd August, 1987 published in Madras under the title "Lanka P.M. on Way Out". In this particular news item certain statements made by the hon. the leader of the opposition of the Parliament of Sri Lanka, have been attributed to Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa, prime minister, in an attempt to mislead the readers. This is yet another malicious attempt to discrdit and defame the hon. the prime minister of Sri Lanka.

Minister Fernando Thanks Pakistan for Food Aid

BK261329 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1249 GMT 26 Aug 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 26 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Acting Foreign Minister Tyronne Fernando received a donation of food from the Pakistan Government today in response to an appeal he had made in March for drought relief assistance. At a ceremony held at the Colombo port aboard the vessel "*Mette Clipper*" he received a consignment of 150 metric tons of rice which is part of Pakistan's donation of 300 metric tons of rice and 300 metric tons of wheat.

The deputy minister of food, S.C. Rajakaruna, was also present at the ceremony, a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Colombo told *Lanka Puwath*.

On 13th March this year the acting foreign minister briefed several diplomatic missions and foreign aid agencies regarding assistance for victims of the drought prevailing then. Thereafter, the secretary of the Ministry of Finance and Planning addressed letters to a number of diplomatic missions on this matter.

The drought had affected over 400,000 families living in 13 districts in Sri Lanka. Mention was made that the impact had been particularly severe in the districts of Kurunegala, Anuradhapura, Puttalam, Hambanota, Moneragala, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi, Jaffna and Trincomalee.

Pakistan was the first country to respond to the government's appeal. In a brief speech at the ceremony, the acting foreign minister stated that Pakistan's ready response was highly appreciated by the government and reflected the close cordial ites between the two countries. He said that Pakistan was really a friend in need.

The minister mentioned that the SAARC countries proposed to set up a South Asian food security reserve to meet emergency needs. He added that Pakistan's gesture would inspire SAARC countries in further to help their neighbours in need.

In response to the government's appeal in March, drought relief assistance to the value of Rs. 441 million has been received up to date.

In addition to the contribution by Pakistan, the main donors have been the United States of America, the World Food Programme, the EEC, Italy and Canada.

Finance Minister Cites Consortium's Response

BK251445 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1319 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Quotations marks as received]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 25 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Sri Lankan Minister of finance and planning, Ronnie de Mel, addressing a press conference in Colombo today, said the response of the 16 member Sri Lanka aid consortium for financial assistance in reconstruction and rehabilitation following the island's four year ethnic conflict, was very favourable.

Mr de Mel had just held a meeting with the ambassadors of the consortium countries. He said a similar meeting will be held Thursday in Colombo with the ambassadors of non-consortium countries.

The finance minister said a World Bank mission was due in Sri Lanka on September 1.

They will prepare a report with the assistance of officials. It is intended to serve as the background document for the special aid group meeting which the World Bank will organise.

Mr de Mel said he hopes the special aid group meeting will be held in Washington immediately after the IMF-World Bank meeting in October to look into the macro-economic implications of the proposed rehabilitation and reconstruction programme.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will also be associated in the preparation of the report and will be sending a team.

If an October meeting is not feasible, the special aid group meeting will be held in December 1987, after the budget, said the finance minister.

Finance Minister de Mel said, "The government intends to undertake a wide-ranging programme of reconstruction, rehabilitation and reconciliation — the 3 R's — in areas affected by ethnic conflicts, riots, civil commotion etc, since July 1983 to date. The affected sectors include transport, power, telecommunications, housing, water supply, health education, agriculture, irrigation, fisheries, buildings etc.

Steps are being taken to prepare a comprehensive programme for rehabilitation and reconstruction. Within the overall programme, priority will be given in the short-run to:

Construction of houses for people who want to return to the troubled areas.
Revamping of water supply system.
Immediate repairs to roads and bridges.
Immediate repairs to telecommunications and electricity distribution lines.
Purchase of buses for transport, particularly for outstation operations by CTB [Central Transport Board].

The medium term programme will include: roads, bridges, railways, electric transmission distribution system, telephone system, local transport such as trains and buses.

The first step is to obtain urgently estimates of the financial resources necessary for the programme. For this purpose I have set up a national task force under the chairmanship of Mr Austin Fernando, secretary, Ministry of Rehabilitation. In addition, district level task forces have been set up with the government agent as chairman. Detailed questionnaires have already been sent out to the government agents as well as to the line ministries concerned to obtain estimates of the extent of damage and the financial resources required for repair and reconstruction. The national task force will be responsible for the collection and analysis of the data to obtain disaggregated information by sectors and districts. They will be assisted by the data processing department of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. I hope the information gathering phase of the exercise will be completed by the end of this month (August).

A World Bank mission is expected in Sri Lanka on 1st September 1987. They will prepare a report with the assistance of officials intended to serve as the background document for the special aid group meeting which the World Bank will organise. The government hopes that the special aid group meeting will be held in Washington immediately after the IMF-World Bank annual meetings in the first few days of October.

An IMF team will also be in Sri Lanka during the first week of September to look into the macro-economic implications of the proposed rehabilitation and reconstruction programme. The ADB will also be associated in the preparation of the report and will be sending a team. If an October meeting is not feasible, this special aid group meeting will be held in the first week of December after my budget.

I hope the procedure that we are adopting will enable us to finalise the programme very quickly. Given the World Bank/IMF/ADB involvement in the preparation of the report that will be presented to the donors, I hope you will not need to send teams from your countries to make separate assessments, as this is likely to slow down the whole process.

It is extremely important that the special aid group meeting is held as early as possible to capitalise upon the fund of goodwill that the peace accord has generated. Delay will lead to an erosion of interest as other priorities emerge. Furthermore, the implementation of the accord domestically will benefit greatly when there is early material support from the international community.

As I have said, we hope to have the special aid group meeting immediately after the Fund/Bank annual meetings. I hope you can ensure that your government will be apporpriately represented at this meeting, so that early decisions can be reached.

We are very anxious to have the meeting in early October. I hope as many of you as possible will be able to make pledges then. Those who are unable to do so then can pledge as early as possible".